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Quichocho told to pay sanction, warned of civil contempt. PAGE 5
CW extension: What it does and what it doesn't. PAGE 11

Extension sought for 1,000-plus expiring paroles-in-place for IRs

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Most of the more than 1,000 paroles-in-place granted to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens are expiring in six months. This early, some parents who are still having difficulty finding jobs are asking the federal government for another extension that they hope would also be up to 2019, similar to the CW program.

This parole allows immediate relatives of U.S. citizens to remain lawfully in the CNMI. It does not authorize employment, though.

"My son has yet to graduate from high school. I would like to at least see

See EXTENSION on Page 4

MORE CANDIDATES

Democratic Party senatorial candidate for Saipan Jesus I. Taisague, right, answers media questions while other party officials and candidates look on during yesterday's news briefing wherein they also said they oppose the Saipan casino law and the application process, among other things. From left, Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate Edward M. "Tofila" Deleon Guerrero, party chair Rosiky F. Camacho, lieutenant governor candidate Daniel O. Quitugua, Saipan mayor candidate Antonio P. Mareham, and Taisague.

See story on Page 4 HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

» **USCIS says 1,102 paroles-in-place for US citizen IRs granted**

\$6.7M potential loss from Asiana suspension

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos meets today with Asiana Airlines and the Marianas Visitors

Authority to discuss a seven-day suspension of some Asiana Airlines flights over violations of safety rules, the po-

» **Jeju Air to bring in over \$122.9M in economic impact**

tential impact of which is estimated at \$6.7 million based on a load factor of 80 percent. The CNMI's revenue loss from Asiana woes, however, could be offset by newcomer

Jeju Air's annual economic impact of over \$122.9 million and the manner in

See ASIANA on Page 4



Push for 2 Saipan casino licenses faces uphill battle

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos said a suggestion from Marianas Stars Entertainment Inc. to award two—instead of one—licenses to develop an integrated casino resort

» **Inos: We'll have to start all over again if that were to happen**

on Saipan would mean starting the whole process all over again, which could include, among other things, throwing out both Marianas Stars and Best Sunshine International Ltd.'s proposals that are now under the Lottery Commission's review.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), author of the bill that became the casino law, said yesterday that "changing the rules in the middle of the game" invites more lawsuits and concerns.

Demapan said parties involved "should just wait for the Lottery Com-

See CASINO on Page 4

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Local

Fan, Lopez are named top graduates of MHS

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Marianas High School, the islands' largest public high school, conferred diplomas yesterday to the largest batch of graduates it has ever had in its history, comprising a total of 301 seniors.

The Marianas High School Class of 2014 was headed by Mariana Fan and Matthew Martin Lopez, who were presented with the prestigious State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education Awards respectively during the graduation ceremony last night at the school's gymnasium.

Fan, 18, was hailed the class valedictorian. She is the daughter of Yaoxing Fan and Zhu Yao Chen. She will soon be flying to the University of California to pursue a major in computer engineering.

In her address to the graduating class, Fan expressed her appreciation and gratitude to her parents, family, mentors, and friends who in one way or another helped shaped her to become what she is now.

She encouraged her peers, as they pursue their dreams, to never stop believing in themselves. "The only person that can stop you from succeeding is yourself..."

Lopez, the class salutatorian, shared with *Saipan Tribune* his dream of becoming a registered nurse. After high school, he will enroll at Southern Ad-

ventist University in Tennessee to pursue a nursing degree. He also plans to obtaining graduate degrees in public health. Lopez, the son of Lovely and Joey Lopez, vows to return to the CNMI and serve at the public hospital.

Lopez was also the recipient of the Principal's Award for school year 2014. The award was presented by MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera.

In his address, Lopez especially recognized his parents for "they are the reason why I never gave up on myself, and they continue to inspire me to reach the impossible."

He also left his peers with a meaningful message that touched the crowd. "As the salutatorian, I stand

before you today not as a person who has achieved the second highest GPA...but as a person who believes that each and every one of you would one day change the world! As we take our final walk, let us leave here today with an ignited heart, determined to serve and inspire others in whatever career paths we choose to take," he said.

MHS bestowed its prestigious Top 10 award to the following graduates: Fan, Lopez, Magdiel Job Corpuz, Harold Aranda, Kristine Sophia Batac, Stephanie Jing We Xiao, Jonaville Cuervo, Ericka Marie Garcia, Hannah Alcorido, and Jill Ann Arada.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos presented

» Largest graduating class in school's history



MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Marianas High School's Top 10 awardees are all smiles for the camera during last night's ceremonies on campus. Recipients of the awards included Mariana Fan, Matthew Martin Lopez, Magdiel Job Corpuz, Harold Aranda, Kristine Sophia Batac, Stephanie Jing We Xiao, Jonaville Cuervo, Ericka Marie Garcia, Hannah Alcorido, and Jill Ann Arada.



MARIANA FAN

Board of Education Award
Valedictorian



MATTHEW MARTIN LOPEZ

Commissioner's Award
Salutatorian

the prestigious Governor's Award to Harold Aranda, also the class' Top 4 student.

With the theme "The Only Person that Can Stop You from Succeeding is Yourself," last night's ceremonies were keynoted by Bob Coldeen Jr. The occasion was also graced by Board of Education and Public School System officials led by BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero

and Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

Janice Tenorio delivered the congratulatory remarks on behalf of the education board while Commissioner Sablan spoke for PSS.

Other speakers in last night ceremonies included Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), MHS principal Cabrera, and vice principal John Davis Jr.

Former Saipan resident arrested for alleged vehicular homicide

Former Saipan resident Luka I. Tapua'lalupe allegedly drove a vehicle while he was intoxicated and hit a Chevrolet Impala, killing its driver in Salmon Creek in Vancouver, Washington.



Tapua'lalupe

Tapua'lalupe, 30, was arrested that same day on charges of vehicular homicide, vehicular assault, and felony hit and run, according to *The Columbian* newspaper.

Tapua'lalupe was taken last week to the Clark County Su-

perior Court. A judge imposed a \$100,000 cash bail for his temporary release. His arraignment will be on June 20, 2014.

After his vehicle hit the Chevrolet Impala, the suspect allegedly fled the scene on foot when he saw that the driver was unresponsive. The female passenger of the victim reportedly sustained serious injuries.

Tapua'lalupe's driver's license was also found suspended. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

PUTC panel chief vows to block utility rate hikes

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The chairman of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communications, Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), has vowed to do his best to block further increases in the utility rates of customers.

Deleon Guerrero earlier testified before the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission of his strong opposition to the recommended rate hikes in many non-revenue fees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. He described the new fees as both unreasonable and untimely for CUC customers to bear at this time.

The lawmaker vowed to make the same efforts once further rate hike petitions are lodged by CUC. *Saipan Tribune* learned that the utilities corporation is expected to submit a new petition—this time on water and wastewater rates—before CPUC within the year.

"As PUC committee chair, I want to make sure that there are no more rate increases for our customers. And I will do everything within my power to stop that," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero conceded that the only way for CUC to avert further rate hikes is to allocate needed funds for its operation. He disclosed a committee plan to

endorse a line-item bill for fiscal year 2015 that would provide CUC some funding resources, on top of its current budget under local appropriation.

According to the lawmaker, CUC was appropriated this fiscal year \$123,000 for its operation. Next fiscal year, he said, the Legislature is looking at giving the agency about \$127,000.

"The Legislature is always being blamed and criticized for not appropriating a proper budget for CUC. So this new fiscal year, we will try to accomplish that. We will identify funding that would cover the debts of the public schools, hospitals, and the central government to help CUC in its cash flow," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that allocating \$1 million each for these agencies' utility debt would be a big relief for the utilities agency.

Although he can't guarantee at this time how much the Legislature can give CUC for these debts, he assured that something would surely be considered, even if it means cutting budgets of some non-essential departments and programs.

Based on CUC records, the outstanding arrears of its three biggest customers—Public School System, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the central government—amounts to over \$22 million and rising.

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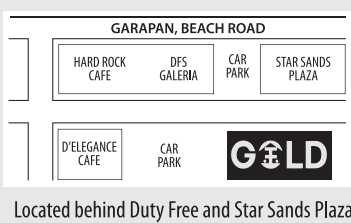
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Democrats oppose Saipan casino, name more candidates

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Democrats said yesterday they oppose the Saipan casino law, the application process, and alleged illegal appropriation of revenues for retirees' 25-percent pension. The party also announced additional candidates for the November elections including those for Saipan senator, mayor, and representatives.

Edward M. "Tofila" Deleon Guerrero, the Democratic

gubernatorial candidate, and his running mate Daniel O. Quitugua, said there has been "disrespect of the will of the people," who have already rejected initiatives to allow casinos on Saipan.

They said they can only support casino gaming on Saipan if it's decided by the people instead of only a few elected officials.

When asked about their plan to restore retirees' deferred 25-percent pension,

Deleon Guerrero and Quitugua said this will be through cost-cutting and streamlining the government, but suggested no major revenue-generating bills besides opening the qualifying certificate or tax-abatement program for those that have heavily invested in the CNMI rather than new, big companies.

Quitugua questioned the legality of the process of appropriating what is considered general revenues to pay for retirees'

deferred pension.

They also pointed out that only a portion of the revenues earned in the CNMI stay on the islands because, for one, foreign workers remit to their families back home. They want to continue to focus on tourism.

Rosiky F. Camacho, the new chairman of the Democratic Party, also announced additional party candidates for the November general elections.

These include Jesus I. Taisague, who is seeking a Saipan

senatorial seat; Antonio P. Mareham as Saipan mayor bet; Precinct I candidates Francis B. Angel, Vince Cabrera, Nelson P. Rios, and Calistro I. Reyes; and Precinct II candidate Bruce Iglecias.

Camacho, a former representative and now a teacher at Mount Carmel School, said they continue to look for qualified candidates.

Besides the gubernatorial tandem of Deleon Guerrero and Quitugua, the other candidates that have long been announced are delegate candidate Andrew S. Salas and Tinian mayor candidate David Cing, a former Ti-

nian senator.

"As we move this campaign forward and promote our plans, we pledge to do so without the need to engage in innuendos to destroy or malign one's dignity," Camacho said in a prepared statement.

Camacho said "as a consequence of 37 years of miseries and despair under Republican administration, our people just can no longer continue to bear these hardships in silence."

The Democrats have to contend with three other gubernatorial teams in the November race, setting the CNMI up for a gubernatorial runoff.

UOG Singers win gold at choir festival

The University of Guam Singers has won the Gold Award in the "small ensemble with microphones" division at the 42nd International Choir Festival of Songs in the Olomouc, Czech Republic. The UOG Singers scored 96 out of a possible 100 points in the category.

The UOG Singers who competed at the festival are Randy Dahilig, Melwert Etumai, Jisela Galino, Andrew Gumataotao, Nicole Leon Guerrero, Donna Lubas, Jacob Mafnas, Julia Rivera, Kalani Sisson, Alfredo Tindugan, and Lovelynn Trinidad.

The UOG Singers featured

a different style than any other choir at the competition, singing a *capella* pop/jazz. "People really responded well to this modern style," said Dr. Randall Johnson, UOG Singers director. "Winning gold again demonstrates the talent and work ethic of our UOG Singers."

The competition was organized by Festa Musicale from the Czech Republic. The international competition featured choirs from the Czech Republic, Germany, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia and Turkey. The UOG Singers have previously competed and won gold at other Festa Musicale choral festivals in Thailand and Guam. (UOG)

CASINO

From Page 1

mission's decision."

"Right now I will not support any proposal to amend the law to have two casino licenses on Saipan because the two applications are now being reviewed based on the existing law," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Public Law 18-38, as amended by P.L. 18-43, allows for an exclusive license to develop a minimum \$2 billion integrated casino resort on Saipan.

Demapan said consideration of two licenses instead of one, however, could happen if the Lottery Commission rejects both Marianas Stars and Best

Sunshine's proposals. But he said this is too far ahead.

The House floor leader confirmed receiving a call from a Marianas Stars representative regarding their suggestion.

The governor, in an interview on Sunday, said the existing law only allows one casino license.

"I don't think that there's any room for discussion about multi-license at this point. I'm aware of their desire. But it looks like...I guess what they're trying to do is say that if we have two and they're not in the frontrunner, they'll be in, right? I guess that's what they're thinking. Well it's not going to happen like that. We have to start all over again if that were to happen," Inos said in an in-

terview at the 70th commemoration of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian.

In an "open letter to people of the CNMI" that appears in today's newspapers, Marianas Stars asks that two licenses instead of one be awarded, assuming that each of the two applicants meets the qualifications, to promote competition, while at the same time maintaining the current annual license and therefore doubling revenues for public services.

Marianas Stars suggests a two-license approach since the Legislature is now considering "a second round of corrections to the Saipan casino law."

Demapan prefired last week a bill that "repeals" and "reen-

acts" P.L. 18-38 as amended by P.L. 18-43, in its entirety, to "ratify good faith actions taken by the Lottery Commission."

Meanwhile, the Lottery Commission will meet again on Thursday to get more updates from its investigators on the status of their investigations into the two applicants and their business plans, amid two pending lawsuits over the passage of the casino bill into law.

The casino law gives the Lottery Commission the options of a 90-day timeframe ending between late June and early July "or" when the investigations into the applicants "have been completed," to decide whether to grant an exclusive casino license and to whom.

ASIANA

From Page 1

which the Asiana flight suspension will be implemented.

The governor received from MVA managing director Perry J. Tenorio yesterday more details about the impact on the CNMI of Asiana Airlines' flight suspension, among other things.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said the governor will meet with MVA and Asiana Airlines today.

Tenorio said yesterday that Asiana Airlines is currently providing 3,774 seats per week to the CNMI.

"The loss to the CNMI of this suspension will be about \$6.7 million based on a load factor of 80 percent," Tenorio said.

The potential loss is much more than what a lawmaker earlier estimated based on initial facts.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Tourism, said the suspension of flights and the impacts are "beyond the CNMI's control."

"However, I continue to wish

that we won't be penalized for Asiana Airlines crews' actions. On the other hand, it could have been worse if the violations were not discovered and nothing's been done to address it," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*, referring to safety that must be top priority for any airline.

South Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport announced last week a suspension of Asiana Airlines' Incheon-Saipan flights for seven days for continuing with a passenger jet flight, OZ603, from Incheon to Saipan on April 19 despite discovering signs of engine trouble after takeoff.

A warning light came on, signaling a problem in one of the plane's two engines.

Tenorio said the Korean government's decision to penalize Asiana Airlines comes at a sensitive time as "transportation safety" has emerged as a priority in Korea following the sinking of the *Sewol* ferry in April.

The MVA managing director cited options being considered to cushion the economic impact of Asiana Airlines' flight suspension.

"Although not yet confirmed,

it is highly likely that the suspension dates will not be imposed consecutively and not during peak season or weekends to minimize impact on travel to the CNMI as a result of the temporary suspension of these flights. Asiana Airlines will negotiate the terms of suspension with the Ministry in July as it is expected that they will not dispute the Korean government's action," Tenorio added.

Yumul hopes that this would be the case, considering that the CNMI tourism is just beginning to recover.

Tenorio also cited Jeju Air's recent announcement that it will become the second Korean airline to launch service from Korea starting on Oct. 1.

"This new regularly scheduled service by Jeju Air will bring an additional 68,985 seats to the CNMI per year with an economic impact over \$122.9 million based on a load factor of 80 percent," he said.

Tenorio also pointed out that Jeju Air is poised to step in and provide charter flights even before their inaugural flight in October "if Asiana's flight suspension takes place during

the summer, so that the CNMI is not left without air service from Korea during Asiana's suspension."

Korea is a major CNMI tourism market.

The flight suspension is an unprecedented sanction by the South Korean government, expected to cost Asiana Airlines some \$3.9 million in lost revenue.

Asiana Airlines' safety rules violation was in connection with a blockage in one of the engine oil filters in the twin-engine B767 jet carrying 253 passengers from Incheon to Saipan, a report from the *Wall Street Journal* says.

The ministry said under the rules, Asiana Airlines should have immediately landed at the nearest airport but they flew all the way to Saipan, putting hundreds of passengers at risk. The aircraft landed safely on Saipan after a four-hour flight.

The suspension could further tarnish the image of South Korea's second-largest flagship carrier, following the crash of one of its aircraft at San Francisco International Airport in July last year.

EXTENSION

From Page 1

him graduate and enter the U.S. military so I am asking the U.S. government to extend the IR [immediate relative] parole," 56-year-old Violy Dawana told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Without a parole extension, she might have to leave her son in the care of friends and family on Saipan to ensure her son completes high school. Like many others, Dawana unsuccessfully sought for a new employer since at least 2012, which would have allowed her to obtain a different immigration status such as a CW permit.

Dawana is just among the estimated 1,000 or so holders of paroles-in-place for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, mostly still minors, in the CNMI. She had hoped that by now, long-term legal foreign workers like her who lost their job when the local economy tanked would have been granted a permanent status.

To date, the U.S. government has not indicated extending the paroles-in-place for U.S. citizens' immediate relatives beyond 2014.

"Just when the economy is getting better and more jobs are opening up, our paroles are expiring. Even if we obtain an EAD [employment authorization document] now, it would still expire in December," said another parole-in-place holder, whose U.S. citizen child is only 8 years old.

The 42-year-old single mother said that, without a parole extension, she would be forced to bring the child with her when she goes home but that means her child will lose certain privileges of being a U.S. citizen such as free public education.

Marie Therèse Sebrechts, USCIS supervisory public affairs officer, said USCIS has granted 1,102 paroles-in-place to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens.

All current paroles were extended or granted up to Dec. 31, 2014.

"We can, of course, not speculate on any future decisions. Yes, the number of requests has

declined this year. As has been stressed throughout the transition, USCIS encourages foreign nationals who wish to remain in the CNMI to obtain another status, if eligible," Sebrechts said.

On Nov. 21, 2012, USCIS Director Alejandro N. Mayorkas, in a letter to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), announced that USCIS may grant "two-year extensions to individuals who have been granted parole under the current immediate relative parole policy and who, based on a case-by-case review of their request for extension, continue to warrant the favorable exercise of discretion."

At the time, Mayorkas said the U.S. Department of Homeland Security recognizes Sablan's H.R. 1466, which would provide a path to lawful permanent residence for most individuals covered by the parole policy. H.R. 1466 wasn't enacted into law.

Sablan later worked to insert a CNMI provision in two national immigration reform bills, S. 744 and HR 15. S. 744 passed the Senate but has yet to pass the GOP-controlled House.

Rene Reyes, founding president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., said yesterday that the paroles-in-place for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens "should be extended."

"Most of these IR parole holders were professional workers and became victims of labor abuses and economic downturn. These are parents of U.S. kids who attended schools and trained individuals to take over CW jobs in 2019, and contributors to the CNMI economy," he said.

When USCIS decided to grant an extension that will allow these individuals to lawfully remain in the CNMI, the expectations are that they do not violate immigration laws, and to apply for extensions of employment (if previously granted), or an initial grant of employment authorization.

Parolees authorized to work must apply separately for an extension of their work authorization and will need to submit approved parole extension with request.

Quichocho told to pay sanction, warned of civil contempt

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona directed lawyer Ramon K. Quichocho yesterday to pay a \$1,200 sanction for his deficient conduct when he filed late an opposition to a store owner's motion to dismiss a lawsuit.

Manglona said part of the sanction included paying defendant Ming Yang Corp.'s legal fees in preparing for a motion.

Manglona said over three

months have passed since her order and fees have not been paid.

Ming Yang Corp., owner of Ming Yang Market, had asked for a court order directing Quichocho to pay this sanction "with all due haste."

The judge noted that the time for opposing Ming Yang's motion has passed without a word from Quichocho.

Manglona said she deems Quichocho's silence an admission that the motion—numbers and all—is meritorious.

Accordingly, Manglona or-

dered the lawyer to pay the fees no later than June 25, 2014, at 4:30pm.

"Should this deadline come and pass without payment—or should Quichocho attempt to re-litigate this motion where he has already admitted the motion is proper—further remedial measures, such as civil contempt, may come," the judge said.

Last month, Manglona ruled it unnecessary for Ming Yang Corp. to file a motion for the court to continue to retain jurisdiction over the lawsuit filed by the late William A. Tracy until the attorney's fee involving Quichocho is resolved.

In that order, Manglona said she had ordered the payment of attorney's fees and therefore has ancillary jurisdiction to effectuate that decree.

Manglona said this was not a case that the court dismissed (due to a settlement agreement) without ever issuing any order with respect to that agreement.

Attorney Mark A. Scoggins, counsel for Ming Yang Corp., asked the court to retain jurisdiction over the case until the fee issue is resolved.

Scoggins said their office sent last April 11 a bill to Quichocho for legal fees amounting to \$1,200 for six hours of work.

Scoggins said on the day of the deadline on April 25, Quichocho sent a message notifying him that the amount was disputed.

Tracy, through Quichocho, filed a lawsuit against several businesses on Saipan, including Ming Yang Corp., for allegedly having facilities that are not

accessible to persons with disabilities. Tracy was reportedly found dead last Feb. 7.

In March, Manglona granted Quichocho's oral motion to dismiss Tracy's lawsuit.

Manglona stated that the court would be retaining jurisdiction solely to enforce the prior court's order on the sanctions imposed against Quichocho. Once the sanctions issue is resolved, the case shall be fully closed, she said.

Last March 6, Manglona sanctioned Quichocho for his late filing of Tracy's opposition to a motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The judge ordered Quichocho to pay for their time all four lawyers who appeared in court at that time in preparation for the argument in their motion to dismiss. She required Quicho-

cho to pay these costs personally and that he not charge his client, Tracy.

Quichocho later informed the court that Tracy had been found dead last Feb. 7 but that he actually passed away before that date.

On May 28, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho issued an order suspending Quichocho's license to practice law for three years for professional misconduct by using a legal tool to harass a former client to get payment.

"Respondent Quichocho's actions were not based in negligence or mistake, but instead were intentional, calculated to obtain payment from a former client through the misuse of legal mechanisms," Camacho had said.

Drug proceeds seized from alleged leader of meth suppliers forfeited

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered yesterday the forfeiture of \$8,500 in cash that was seized from Xing Bo Fang, a man that authorities say is the alleged leader of a group of crystal meth suppliers on Saipan.

In a separate order yesterday, Manglona also ordered the forfeiture of \$750 that was confiscated from Le Xiang Chen, who has already pleaded guilty to distribution of meth or "ice" near a school.

The judge said both Fang and Chen must forfeit to the U.S. government their \$8,500 and \$750 respectively based on the plea agreement.

Manglona said the two shall remain personally liable for the full amount of the judgment until it is satisfied.

Manglona said the U.S. government may, at any time, substitute property having a value not to exceed \$8,500 and \$750 to satisfy the judgment in whole or in part.

Fang, 36, and Chen signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. Under the plea deal, the defendants agreed to forfeit all of their interest to the \$8,500 and \$750.

Fang will be sentenced on July 11, 2014, while Chen's will be on Sept. 12, 2014.

Fang pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute 50 grams or

more of methamphetamine. The offense carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a \$10 million fine, and a \$100 special assessment fee.

According to authorities, Fang received a phone call from Yu Hua Wang on Dec. 27, 2013, during which Wang directed Fang to hand over 100 grams of "ice" to a person who, unknown to them, was working as a confidential source for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

Fang agreed and handed over about 98.7 grams of 98 percent pure methamphetamine hydrochloride to the DEA confidential source.

Chen, 63, and his court-appointed counsel, Bruce Berline, later signed a plea deal with the U.S. government, pleading guilty to distribution of methamphetamine near a school. The offense carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison and a \$2-million fine.

According to the plea agreement, on Nov. 8, 2012, Chen sold 2.8 grams of 98.2 percent pure methamphetamine hydrochloride to a DEA confidential source for \$750.

The sale took place at Chen's house in Finasisu, which is within 1,000 feet of the Northern Marianas College campus.

Fang and Chen were among seven persons arrested in February by joint local and federal law enforcements for "ice" distribution. All pleaded guilty.

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!



Congratulations for 25 years of wedded bliss to Francisco and Beverly Camacho. You both have shown that 25 long years of marriage are proof of the fact that love exists. Your love blossomed and grew throughout the trials of life. You're a wonderful example of a loving man and a happy wife. Cheers to many more wonderful years! Greetings coming out from your children Shawn and Vanessa, Frankie, Kimberly, Breanna, and grandchildren Shalei and Kai'po.

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QC application of Tasi Homes rejected

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority has rejected the qualifying certificate application of Tasi Homes LLC after investigation showed the conflicting interest of some company officials and its failure to disclose all information as required by law.

CDA executive director Manuel Sablan and Qualifying Certificate program analyst Carline Sablan confirmed this with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Tasi Homes LLC wants to develop 49 three-bedroom apartment units along Hagoi Road corner lot near the Sugar Dock. This investment is valued at over \$27 million and the company wants to avail of tax relief through the government's QC program.

"We recommended rejection of their application for a number of reasons and one of these is the technical side. The information we received under

its QC application do not jibe with the information it provided to NMHC [Northern Marianas Housing Corp.] when it applied for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program," Manuel Sablan disclosed.

The CDA investigation, he said, found the non-disclosure of information as required by law such as the company's intention to seek QC benefits from the government when it applied for the Low Income Housing Tax Credit.

"There was no mention in their application to NMHC that they intend to come to CDA for the qualifying certificate program, which is non-compliant with the statute," said Manuel Sablan.

On top of this, CDA determined that Pacific Homes Mission—a nonprofit CNMI organization—owns a 1-percent ownership in Tasi Homes Manager Co. LLC, which owns a .01-percent ownership in Tasi Homes LLC.

CDA also found out that Ivan

A. Blanco, an employee of the CNMI Governor's Office and his spouse, Carmen P. Sablan, are the vice chairman and treasurer respectively of Pacific Homes Mission, which is a clear conflict of interest under Public Law 12-32, which states that no employee of the governor's office and their immediate family shall directly or indirectly qualify for a QC.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the CDA board's decision on Tasi Homes has been forwarded to Gov. Eloy S. Inos after the board unanimously adopted resolution 2014-004.

Litex vs QC

According to the CDA executive director, under NMHC's federal Litex program—or Low Income Tax Credit Program—an applicant is required to demonstrate how much they need in tax credit to basically help fund a project. Prospective investors normally buy this tax credit every year for

10 years to credit to their own tax liability.

Saipan Tribune learned that Tasi Homes LLC was approved by NMHC for \$32 million Litex benefits for 10 years—or \$3.289 million every year.

The rejection of the company's QC, according to Sablan, is not expected to halt the \$27 million apartment project of Tasi Homes because it has already received funding from NMHC's Litex program.

When asked if CDA's decision would have differed if the company had disclosed everything from the start, Sablan said yes. However, he pointed out that even if the company addressed the "conflict of interest" in its application, there's a provision in the law that bars them from reapplying for one year.

In its QC application, Tasi Homes is requesting a two-year waiver for both the developer's and excise taxes. Developer tax is levied on project construction cost while excise tax is considered the import tax.

Company seeks QC for \$41M housing project in Gualo Rai

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth is bracing for another large housing project following revelation that a new firm has approached the Commonwealth Development Authority seeking tax relief and abatements for the soon-to-be built undertaking.

CDA Qualifying Certificate Program analyst Carline Sablan disclosed yesterday that Blue Water Homes LLC filed its application with the agency seeking the following abatements: relief on excise taxes at 100 percent for two years; 100 percent exemption from developer's tax for two years; and 100 percent abatement for BGRT for 15 years.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that the company's business is a low-income housing project to be situated in Gualo Rai.

The company's application has been endorsed to the CDA board since April for review and consideration.

Blue Water Homes LLC's investment is estimated at \$41.9 million. It plans to build 80 new affordable rental units.

The firm's application will be deliberated by the CDA board this week to determine if there's a need to hold a public hearing or not for the proposal.

Based on the initial assessment and review by the CDA administration, CDA executive director Manuel Sablan said yesterday that, like Tasi Homes LLC, Blue Water Homes was also found in

violation of the QC statute for non-disclosure of all required information.

He hinted at the high probability of another "rejection" for the same reason.

Saipan Tribune learned that Blue Water Homes has already been approved \$4.8 million in Low Income Tax Credit benefits under the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s Litex program. For 10 years, full benefit is anticipated at \$48.579 million. The company is owned by a number of individuals and a company.

"Anyone who comes in for CDA's qualifying certificate program, they have to demonstrate that [or disclose that] they went to NMHC. Like the Tasi Homes, based on our initial assessment, this company didn't also disclose that information," said Manuel Sablan.

For QC analyst Carline Sablan: "As of now, why we're going to give up tax dollars for this project if what they presented at Housing was that they only needed tax credit to make it feasible?"

Both the executive director and QC analyst pointed out that under the federal regulations, a Litex applicant is required to ask for no more than what they need to get the project going.

The Low Income Tax Credit Program is basically a tax relief program that provides incentive for prospective buyers of this credit to help finance a project.

Man allegedly steals 3 fruit bats, 1 coconut crab from Saipan Zoo

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man was arrested on Friday for allegedly stealing three fruit bats and one coconut crab from the Saipan Zoo in Sadog Tasi last month and early this month.

Ignacio C. Camacho, 25, was served with an arrest warrant in As Matuis on charges of illegal possession of an endangered/threatened species and theft.

At yesterday's initial appearance hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N.

Camacho imposed a \$25,000 cash bail for Camacho's temporary release. Preliminary hearing will be on June 24 at 1:30pm.

Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation inspector Erwin T. Flores stated in his report that on May 20 and June 1, 2014, Saipan Zoo owner Frank Aldan reported to the Department of Public Safety that unidentified person or persons broke into the zoo and stole three fruit bats and property of the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service/Office of Law Enforcement.

Flores said an interview with a witness last June 6 revealed that Camacho and Germinaro Inos were at a Laundromat south of Tanapag Elementary School last May 9. Camacho allegedly showed the witness one dead fruit bat, saying they just shot the bat that early morning of May 9.

The witness, however, did not see any bullet holes on the bat's wings or body. There was also no blood on the bat.

Flores said he interviewed Inos on June 12, during which Inos disclosed that he was with Camacho at a poker arcade near Tanapag Elementary School last May 9. Inos said that Camacho told him that he was going to steal fruit bats and a coconut crab at the zoo and eventually sell them.

At 2am, Inos and Camacho asked someone to drop them off at the Game and Poker in Sadog Tasi, which is located near the zoo.

While inside the poker room, Camacho again said that he would steal fruit bats and coconut crabs at the zoo and sell them.

Camacho then walked across the street and into the vegetation leading to the zoo. After 30 minutes to an hour, Camacho returned to the poker room, carrying one fruit bat and one coconut crab.

When Camacho failed to sell the fruit bat that morning, May 9, he also showed the bat to another person (witness) that afternoon.



Inos stated that Camacho admitted that he was also responsible for stealing two fruit bats from the zoo sometime early this month.

TINIAN COMMEMORATION

Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, U.S. Defense Representative Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau, delivers remarks during the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Tinian ceremony on the island on June 12. From July 24 to Aug. 1, 1944, the U.S. military engaged in a campaign against Japanese forces to liberate the island, which ended in American victory.

U.S. NAVY/COLEEN SAN NICOLAS-PEREZ





Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
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PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a special meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA
I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
A. Call to Order
B. Roll Call
C. Adoption of Agenda
D. Adoption of the Minutes – May 29, 2014 Meeting
E. Correspondence
II. MANAGEMENT REPORTS
III. PRESENTATION
A. American Capital Energy
IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**
V. BOARD REPORTS
A. Status Report - Personnel Committee
B. Status Report - Customer Service Committee
VI. CONTRACT REVIEWS
VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS*
IX. ADJOURNMENT

* Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.
** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Leonora B. Pelaez
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Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 287-1163

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter Of) FCD GU
The Petition To) CIVIL ACTION
Appoint General) NO. 14-0229
Guardianship For:)
G. D. P. (April 16, 2010)) **NOTICE OF**
Minor Child,) **HEARING**
By:)
Leonora B. Pelaez)
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the
above-entitled matter is set for a hearing
on July 3, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom
205A, before the Honorable Judge Kenneth
L. Govendo.

Dated this 13th day of June, 2014.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Choose Wisely!



Our Best Sunshine team must strike the right balance between Saipan's economic recovery and the continuation of the people's wonderful island lifestyle. During the last few weeks, we have been showing you our ongoing commitments. We are confident, that Best Sunshine's Integrated Resort brings immeasurable benefits to the local community for decades to come. We thank you sincerely for your vote of confidence!

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CETACEAN RESEARCH IN THE MARIANAS

Learn more about whales, dolphins in the Marianas



WINNERS' GALORE

Congratulations to Gordon T. of Kagman III, right, for winning IT&E's Big Daddy BBQ Beach Package! He is shown here with Hans Mickelson, IT&E sales & marketing manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Congratulations to Norman Del Rosario, right, for winning IT&E's Employee Father's Day Raffle! He is shown here with Hans Mickelson, IT&E sales & marketing manager.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

A happy birthday shoutout to Mama Juanita Camacho "Beba"! May you have more blessings come your way. We love you always! Love from Charu, Miah, and the Beba family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan-based Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management is pleased to host a public event focused upon local whales and dolphins today, June 17, at Saipan's American Memorial Park auditorium, from 6:30pm to 8pm.

All who are interested may come and learn about our archipelago's marine mammals from Dr. Erin Oleson, lead scientist for the Cetacean Research Program at the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center in Honolulu. Oleson's presentation will discuss some of the program's findings from the recent surveys and acoustic research in our waters. As at all APASEEM talks, on-topic questions from the audience are strongly encouraged.

Oleson presented her group's preliminary findings in 2013 on developing new passive acoustic technology to monitor the occurrence and behavior of whales and dolphins in remote regions or in situations where visual methods are ineffective. Current research focuses upon

pairing traditional survey techniques, including ship-based and small boat surveys for cetaceans, with new technologies, such as long-term acoustic recorders, animal-carried tags, and development of new autonomous sensors for assessing cetacean populations.

With support from the U.S. Navy, the program has conducted small boat surveys on Guam, Rota, and Saipan since 2010. As of last year, such surveys had documented 20 species of cetaceans in the waters of the Marianas Archipelago, a figure that had doubled the number documented just three years prior. Today's presentation will provide an update of that earlier talk and share findings from the long-term acoustic recorders having been deployed near Saipan and Tinian which monitor the presence of cetaceans year-round. These results are also being compared with the vessel surveys. For more information visit the www.apaseem.org website or write to us via apaseem@gmail.com. (**APASEEM**)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MHS dates to remember

- June 19: Last day for students (Early dismissal at 12pm)
- June 24: Report cards are available for pick up
- June 30: Registration deadline for new and incoming 9th grade students
- June 30 – Aug. 8: Summer and online school
- July 7 – Aug. 1: Extended year program

For more information, call the Main Office at 237-3206/2/5. You can also check the website, www.marianashighschool.com. (**MHS**)

Kagman High half-day sessions

Parents and guardians of Kagman High School are being informed that Tuesday to Thurs-

day, June 17-19, will have half-day sessions. We will release students at 12:30pm for our accreditation work session and preparation for next school year. For any questions, contact our office at 237-3834. (**PR**)

CCA board meeting today

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its regular meeting today, June 17, 2014, starting at 3pm at the CCA conference room. Agenda includes reports from the president and program updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact the association at 682-0050 or email at cca@cca-marianas.org. (**CCA**)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 17, 2006

SDA clinic honors local dental hygienist for 30-year service

The Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, the first dental clinic in the CNMI, honored yesterday its local registered dental hygienist, Maria J.S. Agulto, for her 30 years of service during a surprise party held at Aqua Resort Hotel. Clinic director Kenneth D. Pierson handed a plaque of appreciation and some gifts to the 48-year-old Agulto during the fun and emotional party put up by the clinic's management and staff. Agulto was stunned when the clinic's staff and management as well as her mother and family members yelled "surprise!" upon her arrival at Aqua Resort's lobby.

Budget passage is my top priority—Mendiola

Declaring budget enactment as his top priority, Senate President Joseph Mendiola offered on Thursday to be locked in with fellow lawmakers until the Legislature has passed an appropriation law for fiscal year 2007. Mendiola also urged the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee to expedite its work on the FY2007 budget package submitted by the Fitial administration. He said he wanted the committee's

version of the budget ready by the next Senate session. "As you are aware, I have made the passage of a fiscally responsible budget the foremost priority of this body. The critical pieces of legislation we have before us must be funded on a realistic budget package.

June 17, 2007

Red Cross alerts NMI to scam

Although there has been no report yet of anyone in the CNMI being victimized, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter wants to alert people to a new scam being perpetrated against families with relatives serving in the U.S. military. The scam begins with a phone call. The voice on the other line says it's the American Red Cross, and they're calling to inform the military spouse or family member that their loved one in the military has been injured. However, the caller says that the wounded soldier can't receive medical attention until they retrieve some information that includes the soldier's Social Security number.

Over 1,100 on Saipan get flu shots

At least 1,153 Saipan community members availed of free flu shots during the Department of Public Health's flu vaccine drive on Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. According to Public Health program analyst Roxanne Diaz, "It has been a great response from the community." She said the 1,153 total was the tally 15 minutes before the event was to be closed. Diaz said some Northern Marianas College nursing students and members of the National Honors Society from Marianas High School and Mt. Carmel School helped as volunteers during the vaccine drive. The American Red Cross-

NMI Chapter led by its director, John Hirsh, also helped.

June 17, 2008

Taisakan urges delay in marine monument plan

Northern Islands Mayor Valentin I. Taisakan is urging President Bush to delay for six years any progress on the Pew Charitable Trust's proposal to establish a national marine monument in the Commonwealth while local environmentalists are touting a newly released economic analysis of the plan. In a June 6 letter to Bush shared with the Saipan Tribune, Taisakan said it is vital for local people to understand how the project will impact fisheries, ocean resources and tourism. Taisakan asked the president to "give the people of the Northern Mariana Islands the same time period given to the people of the State of Hawaii to study the negative and positive effect of having to designate a permanent National Marine Monument within CNMI waters."

SVS to construct new Kindergarten classrooms

The San Vicente Elementary School said it would not be able to open its Kindergarten classrooms for next school year unless they first address building safety concerns. SVS principal Kinai Salas said that if the two kindergarten classrooms are not fixed in time for next school year, "I will not be able to open the Kindergarten for next school year, and I don't want to do that." The two Kindergarten classrooms, which are located at the lower end of the SVS campus, are at least 16 years old. Salas said the classrooms are in such terrible shape that they pose a safety hazard to students.



Hafa Adai, Tirow Waami and Greetings to the People of the Northern Mariana Islands,

"Marianas Stars" may be a new name to you, but our affiliate launched the recent "white knight" rescue of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel. Our sister company has already invested over \$40 million on Tinian, employs over 600 people, and plans to invest another \$600 million there to build a new 5-star hotel, luxury villas, a golf course, a water park, and many other projects. We are happy to be your new neighbors, and proud to be a part of this community.

When the CNMI legislature recently enacted a law to allow casino gaming on Saipan, we decided to throw our hat in the ring. To be honest, part of our decision was defensive: We knew that if a competitor had an exclusive gaming license on Saipan, it would threaten the jobs and revenue we provide on Tinian. We knew, on the other hand, that if we had a resort on Saipan, we would have every incentive to ensure that our projects on both islands prospered. Part of our plan would be to improve transportation links between the islands – not only to transport guests back and forth between Saipan and Tinian, but to provide much improved connections to Rota and Guam as well.

We never pushed for casino gaming on Saipan: We completely respect the prerogative of the people of Saipan and the CNMI to decide whether or not they want it. But if this is indeed what the people want, we are determined to give it to them in the best possible manner. We have designed a beautiful family-oriented resort called "Legend of the Ocean," with a theme park that celebrates the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures. Our resort would include shopping, family entertainment, and a much-needed convention center. We have the capability and the track record to make this vision a reality, and to provide much needed jobs and revenue to the people of the CNMI. Please check out our plans online at www.marianasstars.com.

We know that the Saipan casino issue has generated a fair share of controversy. We know of many people who generally support casino gaming on Saipan, but who question the fairness of the process to award an exclusive license. This is a serious problem: If the license

is awarded under a cloud of suspicion, it will give a major black eye to the CNMI in the casino industry and among investors generally. Even if the suspicions turn out to be unfounded, it is of the utmost importance that the public have confidence in the integrity of the process.

The legislature is now considering a second round of corrections to the Saipan casino law. We respectfully urge the legislature not to simply put band-aids on flaws that have been uncovered in the process. If the legislature decides to hold hearings, or to put this issue to a vote of the people, we would fully support that. But we offer, with the greatest of humility, a simple suggestion to restore the public's confidence in the process: Don't just award one license, award two – assuming each applicant meets the qualifications. Take the current plan for one 2,000-room mega-resort and split it into two 1,000-room resorts. But keep the fees the same for each licensee, so that the CNMI gets a total of \$30 million per year from the two licensees rather than just \$15 million from one. Each applicant will get half a loaf, but the CNMI will get twice the revenue for the retirees, for health care, for schools, for infrastructure, for everyone.

Non-exclusivity means healthy competition, greater choice, and higher quality facilities and services. Macau's economy soared when it introduced competition into its casino industry, and its gaming revenues quickly surpassed those of the Las Vegas strip. Most importantly, a non-monopoly assures the integrity of the process, removing any suspicion that legislation was rushed, or designed, for any one bidder. It's a win-win solution that benefits the people.

Our slogan is: "The People of the CNMI Deserve Better" – better jobs, better health care, better education, better infrastructure, better lives. We hope that the suggestion we offer today can play a small role in bringing about the better future that the people of these beautiful islands deserve.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oloomway, and Thank You,

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LEGEND OF THE OCEAN

INTEGRATED THEME PARK & CASINO RESORT, SAIPAN

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Just what are Obama's options in Iraq?

President Obama said Thursday that the administration was considering "all options," including military action, to help the government of Iraq fend off advancing Sunni Muslim extremists. But we would be surprised—and disappointed—if the administration injected American forces into a conflict from which the U.S. finally extricated itself only three years ago. Ominous as they are, this week's developments justify neither American boots on the ground nor airstrikes carried out by American pilots.

This week's upsurge of violence is partly a spillover of the civil war in Syria—the group that gained control of Mosul and Tikrit is called Islamic State in Iraq and Syria—but it also reflects the failure of Iraq's Shiite Prime Minister Nouri Maliki to establish legitimacy with Sunni Iraqis. It's thus another reminder of the naivete of U.S. strategists who thought that the sectarian hatreds unleashed by the ouster of Saddam Hussein could be easily subdued in a Western-style democracy.

The New York Times reported that even before this week's victories by insurgents, Maliki pleaded with the Obama administration to launch airstrikes against areas used by the rebels to launch attacks. The administration refused, but it will now be pressured to reconsider. How should it respond?

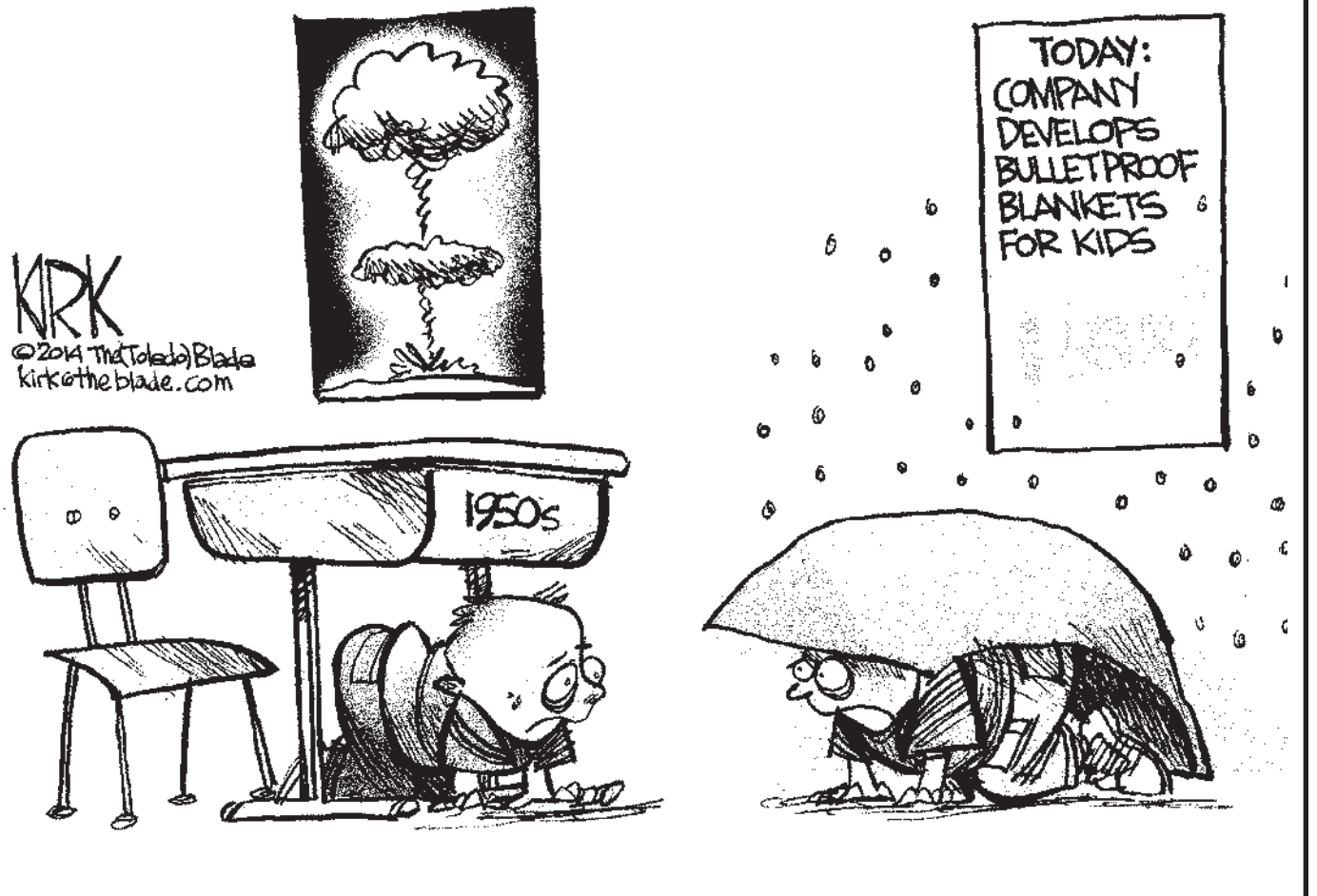
Obama should apply the principles he outlined in a speech last month at West Point's commencement. In that speech, he pledged to assist Iraq (along with Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) in combating terrorist violence. In Iraq, that assistance has taken the form of munificent military aid including F-16 fighters, attack helicopters and Hellfire tactical missiles. If those resources haven't sufficed to enable Iraqi forces to resist the insurgents, that isn't a sufficient argument for putting American pilots in harm's way.

In his West Point speech, Obama also said that he would approve direct U.S. military action in response to specific threats against Americans, and cited drone strikes in Yemen and Somalia. While we're uncomfortable with the number of drone strikes the U.S. has carried out there and in Pakistan, if a terrorist is plotting an attack on Americans, it shouldn't matter whether he is located in Yemen or Iraq. But that doesn't mean the U.S. should deploy aircraft—manned or unmanned—to shore up Maliki's government.

Obama's critics glibly blame the spiral of violence in Iraq on the president's failure to secure an agreement with Iraq that would have kept a residual U.S. military presence there. But it's not clear that a few thousand American trainers would have made a major difference in the readiness or resilience of Iraqi soldiers. If there was a time when the U.S. could control events in Iraq, that time has long passed. Obama should remember that as he ponders his "options."

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DUCK AND COVER



A Turkey of a comment

Recip Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, in televised comments after the Soma coal mine accident, coldly pronounced that "things like these happen all the time," a rather objective assessment that I would not hesitate to make myself but not a very prudent political statement to make, enflaming the tragedy by making the families of the victims angrier in the midst of their instinctive grief.

Former Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won was more culturally strategic in the real sense, though no less authentic, in that he took full responsibility for the delayed response of the Coast Guard to the MV *Sewol* ferry sinking that might have saved more lives.

In the process, he also revealed that the incident was not just a freak occurrence but a consequence of a culture of corruption that permeates a broad spectrum of society, including the systemic violation of all regulatory provisions as a rule rather than the exception, from the safety in ship building to following limits of freight, the practice of securing cargo to balancing loads and accurately logging weights.

Let me get my experience into the picture. I used to live on an island off Cebu in the Visayas where the normal means of getting around to the other islands, as well as heading north to Manila, west to Iloilo, east to Tacloban, and south to Davao, is by ferry. The published reports of sinking during a typhoon or other conditions of inclement weather where a ship is either overloaded or severely handicapped by poor maintenance was common. But obedience to the regulatory provisions was often an exception rather than the rule. Thus, the frequency of ferry disasters.

The question the MV *Sewol* dramatically raised is whether we can continue with a systematic practice of regulatory corruption, particularly in transport systems like buses, trains, and planes? The additional profit gained accrues mostly to owners and operators. Victims are expendable.

There are certain conveyances and infrastructures needed as public service that cannot be left on profit motive alone, the same way we have schools, hospitals, water delivery, sewage disposal, electric generation, and yes, ferry boat supervision meant to serve the public well-being. They may start privately but cannot be sustained without public support.

Interisland short jaunts like the run between Saipan and Tinian cannot be left just to the devices of private enterprise without regulatory supervision, and we know how insidious it is when the private enterprise colludes with public supervision to hoodwink the public, all in the name of profit.

If Korea focuses its emotional energy on paying attention to how it may systemically heed regulatory measures rather than conduct witch hunts after the fact, it can get its system in better shape. The

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



resignation of officials like that of the prime minister and the obvious grief that has driven the president into public apology, can all be worth the while if we understand that, indeed, these "things do happen." But when we focus on who to blame for the happening, and simply rearrange the furniture after the fact, we miss out on preventing it from happening again. Indeed, they can be avoided if we put the welfare of folks first above the bank auditor's eye and grade on the bottom line.

Mei (coal) is the black heap in front of my former residence at the university, spread out in a wide open space to last the winter in firing the engines of a plant that sent hot water into our room radiators for five months. The plant is a modern facility equipped with the latest in filters and scrubbers but still add carbon into the air to add to the greenhouse effect on our planetary environment. The coal burning plants that dot the landscape of the foothills of Sichuan to the Mongolian steppes and the frosts of Heilongjiang await critical upgrading. The atmospheric particle reading on the skies of Shenyang where I live, but more so in Shanghai and Beijing, constantly raise respiratory alarms.

Mei/Coal is accessible and cheap, whether mined in Shaanxi, or Turkey, the Appalachia or India. That's what makes the Turkey president's comments reprehensible. Mining coal shows frequency of avoidable disasters because we do so for the bottom line profits rather than the welfare of the workers.

"Clean coal" is an oxymoron, making the Turkey incident doubly tragic. The mining of *mei* and its use are all in the name of industrial progress for the sake of economic growth at the altar of financial gain.

Tragedies in *mei* mining like the Turkey incident no longer need to happen. We have cleaner ways to produce power. Industrializing England sent its young to the pits to light up its streets rather than just leave the carbon stone alone on the ground! The world paid dearly for it. Might it be time to declare a moratorium on coal burning? Would we dare?

This is where furtherance of the use of alternative energy—wind, tidal and solar—is so critical a function to demonstrate, which the CNMI can perform for the rest of the world. Would we care?

CW extension: What it does and what it doesn't; and the H-1B prevailing wage crisis

On May 28, 2014, we received a news release from Congressman Gregorio Sablan's office that the long awaited decision regarding the extension of the CW program has been made and that the CW-1 transition period would be extended for an additional five years, to Dec. 31, 2019. The official announcement by U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez was made and published in the *Federal Register* on June 3, 2014.

This was very welcome news to most of the people in the CNMI, especially employers and foreign workers. As the analysis in the *Federal Register* pointed out: "According to the 2010 Island Areas Census...the CNMI population was 53,883, with 24,168 U.S. citizens and 29,715 non-citizens. The total number of U.S. citizens age 16 and over was 13,016. The [U.S. Labor] Department's calculation, using the 2010 Island Areas census, found that 24 percent of U.S. workers residing in the CNMI were unemployed. ... The total number of unemployed U.S. workers in the CNMI in 2010 amounted to only about 20 percent of the 14,958 foreign workers. *Even if all the U.S. workers in the labor force were employed, more than 11,000 jobs would still need to be filled by foreign workers.*" "Secretary of Labor Extends the Transition Period of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands-Only Transitional Worker Program," 79 FR 31988 (June 3, 2014) (emphasis added). These numbers may be somewhat inaccurate for a number of reasons: it is now four years later; the workforce calculation is based on total population over age 16 and does not subtract students, retired people, and those who never held a salaried job. Nevertheless, the trend is clear: the CNMI simply does not have the population to support the economy we have, much less the economy we would like to have. This is a matter of numbers, not politics. Do the math.

That being said, let us look to see what the extension affects and what it doesn't.

1 What's clear: the CW program continues. The CW program will continue, as we have come to know it, for another five years.

■ Spouses and children under 18 of CW-1 workers will continue to be eligible for CW-2 status for the same duration as the CW-1 worker. CW workers, and their spouses, who have U.S. citizen children between the ages of 16 and 21 will be eligible to apply for green cards as those children reach age 21 before the end of the extended CW program.

■ Legitimate CNMI businesses will continue to be able to hire foreign workers to meet their current and projected future needs. Employers will need to comply with the same regulations and procedures as before. They will need to post JVA's; give preference in hiring to U.S. qualified workers, pay filing fees, and file Forms I-129CW (or other Forms I-129, for other nonimmigrant visas such as H-1B).

■ Unfortunately, those employers who renewed their CW workers in the last few months, and received CW status only until Dec. 31, 2014, will need to renew those workers again, with the same fees and procedures, with no credit or adjustment made in consideration of the prior filing.

■ The CRNA still mandates the reduction of foreign workers to zero by the end of the transition period. The federal government has been fairly generous in this respect up until now and has not cut the number of available CW slots below the approved applications for the prior year. But policies are political and subject to change. However, we really have no way of knowing how this aspect of the CW program will play out under a new presidential administration.

■ Please also note that this is the first five-year extension. The CNRA, which terminated the CNMI's immigration authority, authorizes additional five-year extensions under the same parameters as this first one. In addition, the CNMI-related sections of the immigration bill now pending in Congress would also extend the CW program to the end of 2019, but then cut it off with no renewal. We think that is a bad, politically-driven decision in a bill we otherwise fully support, but the language is there and the provision was favorably reported by the House committee that recently considered it. So that is one more unknown, subject to the winds of political change.

2 What's not clear: Administration of other nonimmigrant visa categories. At first, the U.S. DOL press release appeared clear, and well thought out. And it is, as far as it goes. But then we noticed that the U.S. DOL press release is written en-

tirely in terms of the CW program. There is no mention of the possibility of extending the E-2C CNMI-only investor program; no mention whether asylum will become available in the CNMI on Jan. 1, 2015; and the only mention of H-1B temporary workers is to note that most CW positions do not qualify because they are specialty occupations, with nothing said about the CNMI's current exemption from the nationwide numerical cap on H-1B (and H-2) visas.

So we went back to the CNRA. The CNRA amends the Covenant to insert new language, including the following definition of the terms "transition period" and "transition program," as part of the law on application of the Immigration and Nationality Act to the CNMI:

TRANSITION PERIOD – There shall be a transition period beginning on [Nov. 28, 2009] and ending on Dec. 31, 2014, except as provided in subsections (b) [exemption from the numerical cap on H-1 and H-2 workers] and (d) [the CW program], during which the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of the Interior, shall establish, administer, and enforce a transition program to regulate immigration to the Commonwealth, as provided in this section (hereafter referred to as the 'transition program').

CNRA, section 702(a).

The CNRA does not specify that the terms "transition period" and "transition program" apply only to CW-1 and CW-2. However, subsection (d)(5)(A) of the new Covenant language tasks the DHS Secretary, in consultation with the usual departmental suspects plus the CNMI governor, to "ascertain the current and anticipated labor needs of the Commonwealth and determine whether an extension of up to 5 years of the provisions of this subsection is necessary to ensure an adequate number of workers will be available for legitimate business in the Commonwealth." (Emphasis added.)

That phrase, "of the provisions of this subsection"—a subsection that deals only with the CW program—suggests that only the CW program has been extended. But the answer is not so simple and clear-cut, and we hope that USCIS and USDOL will provide guidance on the following issues:

■ **The exception to the asylum law.** The CNRA provides that the asylum provisions of the INA shall not apply *during the transition period* to persons physically present in the Commonwealth or arriving in the Commonwealth. ... That seems pretty clear, but the CNRA elsewhere states that the termination date of the exception is "Dec. 31, 2013," not 2014. On Oct. 28, 2009, DHS published "conforming regulations" to implement provisions of the CNRA in conjunction with existing law, and concluded that the 2013 date was a "technical oversight," and that the DHS Secretary and the U.S. Attorney General concluded "that asylum will be unavailable to persons physically present in or arriving in the CNMI during the entire time of the transition period." Unclear: guidance needed.

■ **The H-1 visa cap exemption.** Subsection 6(b) of the language added to the Covenant by the CNRA provides that the CNMI is not subject to the nationwide numerical cap on H-1 and H-2 workers. This is particularly important because if the CNMI becomes subject to the H-1B cap, it is doubtful we will be able to secure specialty occupation workers. If the definition of the transition period means that the transition period will end Dec. 31, 2014, except for subsections dealing with the H numerical cap and the CW program, that fact should be clarified by USCIS. USCIS should also clarify whether it considers that the apparent extension of the H-1B cap exemption stands on its own, or whether it needs an administrative extension, like the CW program, or, possibly, U.S. congressional action.

■ **The E-2C program.** The CNRA made the E-2C CNMI-only investor status available to existing holders of CNMI investor visas, "during the transition period." There is no discussion of extension, and we have generally assumed—and advised—that the E-2C program will die at the end of the year. That is particularly hard on mid-level investors who may not meet the qualifications for an EB-5 immigrant investor visa, but who nonetheless have legitimate businesses that contribute to the CNMI's economy. Extension of this program needs clarification, and consideration.

3 The H-1B prevailing wage crisis. We generally avoid the term "crisis," but that's what we have here. Even if the CNMI becomes subject to the numerical caps on H-1 visas, we will

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 25 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

still need these technically trained, specialty occupation employees. Under the current rules, an application cannot be filed with USCIS until U.S. DOL approves the wage level offered to the worker. If there is a local prevailing wage survey, whether done by private organizations or government agencies, then U.S. DOL will usually accept that survey as authoritative. If not, then U.S. DOL looks either to a neighboring jurisdiction—Guam in our case—or instead applies the national averages.

In October 2011, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (of which we are members) stepped up to the plate and, with the help of a small grant, provided a prevailing wage survey that was accepted by U.S. DOL. That was followed in late April 2012 by a much more detailed prevailing wage survey, published by the CNMI Department of Commerce.

Prevailing wage surveys are good for two years and, if not updated, are no longer credited by U.S. DOL. That is what has happened to the CNMI. We are starting to get prevailing wage determinations that state that the survey on which we rely is outdated, and which then apply the national average wage for the position. In one case, that resulted in an increase of \$20,000 per year—from \$45,000 to \$65,000—which may be beyond the employer's resources. (We are reapplying, using the Guam figures, which are still accepted by U.S. DOL.)

This situation could be cured easily, by doing another survey like the Chamber's 2011 survey, which took a couple of months and was readily accepted by U.S. DOL. We contacted the Chamber nearly a year ago, and were told that the Chamber was seeking a grant. There has been no grant, and no new survey.

We understand that the amount of money needed to update the Chamber's prevailing wage survey is relatively small, in the range of \$21,000 to \$22,000. We think it's time—past time—for the Chamber to seek donations from members and from non-member employers who benefited from the 2011 survey.

This is an urgent employment issue, which affects all of the CNMI, not just the businesses that employ H-1B specialty workers. These workers fill the critical technical positions that allow both government and private businesses to keep our islands, and our economy, running. Consider also that the bulk of H-1B positions were applied for, and backdated to, the end of November 2011, when all the umbrella permits expired. H-1B visas are good for three years, and then must be renewed. It is now time to renew all of those positions, so that critical H-1B employees remain employed. It's time for a new prevailing wage survey, as soon as possible.

You can find the U.S. DOL press release at <http://tinyurl.com/krgsgx7>, and the actual *Federal Registrar* Notice at <http://tinyurl.com/ohcc3kq>. USCIS has published what we hope is only a preliminary fact sheet, at <http://tinyurl.com/q42xb7x>.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dirty tricks

I was reading Mr. Jesus Taisague's letter to the editor dated June 6, 2014, titled "It is a wolf bearing gifts." His letter is kind of disturbing, since I know his situation with the Retirement Fund. First of all, he opted out himself from the settlement trust fund agreement,

then he challenged the Fund in court. I don't blame him for what he had chosen but the choice he made put him in a blind spot. Now that he has a situation he became unfriendly and dislikes the governor. What a kind. Mr. Taisague, if the governor is playing politricks, then what are you playing, dirty tricks? What are you trying to do with the governor? I think you should pay him a visit at his office






and try to sort things out. I assure you that your situation might be solved. A man with integrity does not give attitude; instead he shall act professionally.

Ben Garrett
Susupe, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 79
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 81 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 83 ▼ 80

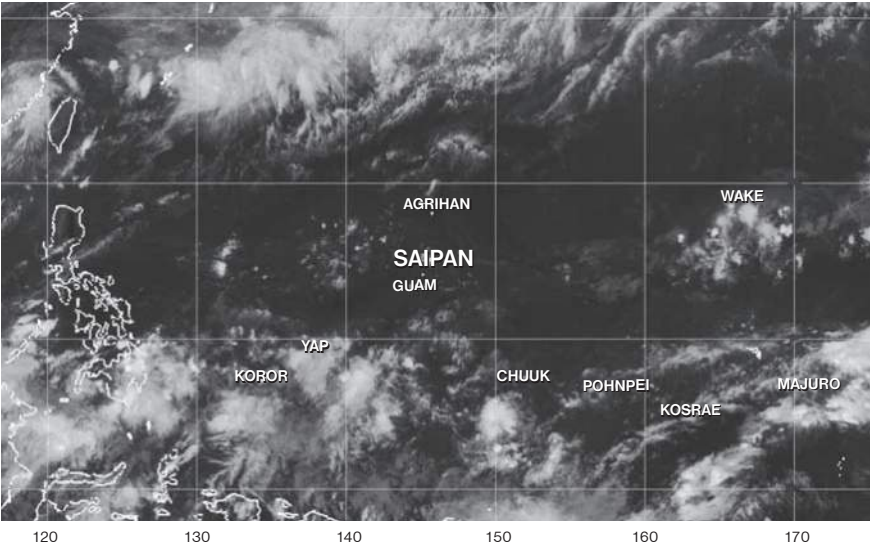
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 55
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 72
London	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 53
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 59
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 59 ▼ 43
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
New York	Sunny	▲ 78 ▼ 67
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 65
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 53
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 64
Rome	Thunderstorms	▲ 74 ▼ 62
Salem	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 52
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 64
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 70
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 92 ▼ 70

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
12:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet	
6:06 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
10:54 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
6:06 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough meanders eastward from 6N130E to 8N140E to 5N146E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found over parts of Palau and Yap south of a line from 8N130E to 10N138E to 8N144E and south of Chuuk between 1N and 6N from 148E to 156E. A surface trough extends northeastward from 13N137E to 18N143E. Isolated thunderstorms are present west of the Marianas within 150 miles of 17N141E. Another surface trough extends northeastward from EQ165E to 5N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring within 100 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of the Marshall Islands between 4N and 11N from 172E to the date line and west and north of Kwajalein within 50 miles of a line from 9N162E to 10N169E. An old stationary front stretches east-northeastward from 15N157E to beyond 19N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen just south of Wake Island within 80 miles of a line from 17N164E to 18N168E to 18N177E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:33 PM	9:42 AM
Wednesday	11:21 PM	10:41 AM
Thursday		11:39 AM
Friday	12:06 AM	12:34 PM
Saturday	12:51 AM	1:29 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2014

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3	UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota	UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5	UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4	UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5	UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5	UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7	UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7	UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	11:20pm	2, 6 via NRT	DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7	MU763A	6:50pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5	MU763	7:20am	3:00am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
DL287/473	6:05am	10:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM	UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM	UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM	UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM	UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM	UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
				UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM	D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31
D28009	12:50pm	4:05pm	May 18, 22, 27, June 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 29, July 3, 8, 13, 17, 22, 27, 31	UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM	UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM	UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Malinau hanom sadog

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



I hanom gi sadog iya Su-supe malinau. Suabe i guinfaifen mañglu'. Esta siña hu ekuñgog i silensiu i lugat propiu yan oriya. Esta na'fugu i katman sadog yan mañglu'.

Mattu gi malinau na hu li'e i mapagahes gi fondun sadog. Bonitu sa' gofha'an mientras sige pajar man-gupu gi aire. I freskon mañglu' sige ha gaput hagin niyog.

Gi silensiu libianu un' huñgog lokue' pinadesen tautau-ta siha ni magap hulu' ginen katkuet soñgsoñg. Ilegña i amigu hu Magoo na mafunas esta i "better times" ya mapegaye nuebu: "Maybe next time". Dios mihu!

I pinadesen todus un' klasen pañgpañg napu. Dimas de un' attende problema, kasse mas gai benefisiu hau 'an un' atan haf' na sabasion guaha sin ayudun man-sabiun I Deni'. Kau malinau tasi pat sadog, mauleg na lugat para unna' deskansa hi-

nassomu.

Modelun Todu

Sige hu arastreha haye gi halom man-maestroghu yuma'hu intereshu liñguahen English yan Chamorro. Gaige dos: Si Señor Vicente N. Santos yan defuntu Jesus M. Concepcion. I finenina maestroghu gi English Reading Class. I segundu maestroghu gi English 'nai sigeyu' mona.

Lau i tumanom taftaf grammatikan finu' English i tiuhu as Rudy M. Sablan. Deste sais gradu ha poñga ham ni ochu na patte gi pisun grammatikan English. Ai, tai malefaghu nu ayu na leksion i sumatbayu' gi karera mona.

Finu' Chamorro gagaige ha' si Nan Che' Torres ni fumanague ham tumuge' primet na finu' Chamorro gi segundu gradu. Ayu i tutuhon yan uttimu na leksion mame gi matuge' finu' Chamorro. Gi mina' tres gradu 'nai man-matutuhon ham iney-ag finu' English.

Eksperiensia

Magahet na i nanan tiniñgu' gaige gi eksperiensian tautau. Hu adeñgane dos tomtum na amku', unu lancheru i otro peskadot. I lancheru umesplikaye-yu' tiempon preparasion plaset fangualu'an antes de finatton primet agua de Abrit. Kontodu usun ramientan gualu deste fusiños, kuha, bareta', kama' yan machete. Humanau guatu ham gi tinanom, pinegsai yan peskan tasi deste talaya yan fisga.

Benefisiosu na kombetsasion gi dos tomtum na amku' ni hu fagcha'e gi dumañkuloghu antes. Ti sessuyu' gi tasi lau kana-ha' diariu gi gualu dispues de finagpu' eskuela 'an taya dottrina. Man-malulog ham kabales ni dos amku'.

Sige mona, in' fagcha'e otro siha mañainata ni umapagat ham lokue' haf che'chu kili-syanu gi maseha haye na prohimuta piot pot sensian ayudu 'sino karidat. Hu sen agrade se tod u konsuelu yan satton na kreneansan niha.

Sentadan Lanchu

Dispues de man-echu ham lahe, sige hu dibina haf' na manñge'ña finadeni satdinas gi lanchu ke gima'? Tod u sentadan lanchu palañgpañg. I mismu sentada sosobla 'an i gima' 'nai maplanta.

Ilegña si tatahu na gi gualu'

todu mañgalalamten gi entalu' luchan tinanom. Duru i usun kuha, fusiños, kama' yan machete. Tod u man-lamlam tatautau niha sa' man-sosogun masahalom. Kontodu estomagu hokog para u guleg sa' duru i sague' machete yan maluñu kuha.

Tat ti ñalañg gi oran amotsan talo'ane pat mirienda. Deste atulin atmayas, harinan mai'es yan kalamasan dikiki'. Namase' i babue sa' in' heflag tod u tason mame. Ai na tiru guihe siha na tiempu. Lau manhomlu' yan fuetsudu i mañeluhu siha lalahe.

Buente pot kreneansan hin-imidde yan inagofli'e gi halom un' popblen guma na man-hihot relasion mañaina yan famaguon antes. Gaige guennau ayu na

pisu i hinatsan tata ni nina' fitme haligiña as nana. Man-daña yan akilili' tod u entalu' i chalan i gima', Guma' Yuus yan i gualu' familia. Ni achog bai mabendas, bai' danche chalan ayu na gualu tatte gi gima'. Ayogue' na gualu sumustene hinanau mame kumu familian tanu'.

Huñgan, guaha 'nai manñgaha' ham uttimu suspirus finaisen bendision ayudu ginen hilu'. Sen ti magtus lokue' fitme na inapagat nanan mame para bai'n embrasa sensian hin-imidde gi haf' guinahan mame. Estague' na halige chumaba' hinasson tulisan gi che'chu tinailaye.

In siñgon tod u mattirun pinebble. In gesa guinahan

tanu' deste tinanom gualu', suetten tasi yan sabana. Man-felis hinanau mame na idat pot in' katga, sin ditension, obligasion mame gi fitme yan satton na disposicion nana yan tata. Makat na tiru lau halulog ham dispues gi haf' propiu yan dinanche. Mit grasias para tod u minesñgon mañaina-ta.

I patgon ni dumalalag si tataña gi kanton tasi siempre u eyag tumalaya. Ti u fan gagau na ña guihan sa' esta libianu guiya na maisa mañgone fina' totchen tasi ginen talayan tata. Kontodu ayu i mañanau gi che'chu' gualu' u soda' dispues hinagoñg niha. 'An para yeñgyoñg atdeñg tod u dia, pues tula noche un' frichis mañglu' ti senkilisyanu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Integrated resort our last hope!

My dear people of Saipan: I'm sure many of you have watched the John Gonzales Show on Wednesday night about integrated resorts. Personally, I have learned some interesting information about the concept and I'm now even more convinced that an integrated resort could really be the solution to our economy.

Like many of you, I don't agree with the way the government passed the casino law; however, it did get us a couple of investors here today, and the concept of IR was actually brought here by one of them. With the \$1 million application fee already submitted and the \$30 million deposit ready to be released upon the awarding, I don't think we have too much to lose and all to gain. Also, with all of the commitment that the investor is making, I can't help but ask: Instead of killing it right away, why don't we give it a try?

For those who criticize casino but do not offer any other industry to assist our ailing economy, be reminded that in 1987, our government invited the garment industry to come and invest in our islands. This was the beginning of the worst disaster the CNMI ever experienced. Yes, they poured millions of dollars into our economy, but we allowed them to bring in 15,000 nonresident workers, which contributed to the U.S. government taking our dream of self-government.

The garment factories were fined millions of dollars for labor abuses, exploitation and many others. We allowed them to implement a minimum wage in the amount of \$2.90 while our minimum wage was \$3.05 an hour. They destroyed our reputation and trust by the federal government.

Next, we lost our Japanese investors, which consisted of all the Japanese-owned hotels, golf

courses, insurance companies, and others. Then we lost Japan Airlines and Continental Airlines transferred all their staff to either Guam or the United States.

Let me conclude by saying that we lost our reputation and trust with the federal government and we lost our Japanese investors and millions of dollars because of our many failures and so let us protect the only remaining investors (integrated resort), so let us spread the good news and protect the CNMI from further destruction.

Herbert S. Del Rosario

San Antonio, Saipan

A huge shout out and humble thanks to Ms. Castro and the veterans

Thank you Ms. Marie Castro for the wonderful presentation you gave to us at the American Memorial Park and thanks for bringing together, yourself, your great book and the veterans so we could all enjoy it. It seemed like everyone you ever taught at Mt. Carmel was there—a truly nice turnout for your first book and lecture. I can tell you that many a tear leaked out so please come back for your second book signing. You are truly a great lady and an inspiration to today's young people. This is from all of you inspired on Friday night. Thank you so much and thank you veterans, then and now.

Gary DuBrall

Chalan Piao, Saipan

Pave Kagman roads already!

This is an open letter to Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Saipan senators Pete P. Reyes, Ralph DLG. Torres and Ray Yumul, and representatives Larry I. DeLeon Guerrero and Antonio Agulto. I am writing this letter to ask your honest assistance and commitment to commence the asphalt paving of our broken, dilapidated, and unsafe roads in Kagman III and Kagman IV. A few months back, both our representatives as well as our governor announced publicly that there is available funding to pave

our roads in the amount of \$600,000. We, the residents of Kagman, will like to see *real, concrete actions* in developing our roads before the general elections this year. People are fed up with too many political promises, and nothing happens! This coming election, candidates will be judged according to his/her actions that benefit the voters, especially the NMDs.

Vicente M. Sablan

Kagman, Saipan



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Sailor awarded Purple Heart for wounds on the battlefield

By TIMOTHY WILSON

MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 2ND CLASS (EXW)
JOINT REGION MARIANAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

SANTA RITA, Guam—Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 1st Class (EWS/PJ) Rashid Graham was awarded the Purple Heart in a ceremony on Naval Base Guam on June 16.

Graham was hit by a 60-lb improvised explosive device on Sept. 30, 2012, while on patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. The detonation occurred five feet behind him, propelling him 10 feet and causing an ear rupture, concussion, contusions and multiple lacerations throughout his body.

"It is an honor to receive this award and be recognized," said Graham. "However, there are many dedicated service members during that operation that contributed to that mission. The award is for everybody."

After the blast and using his metal detector, Graham was able to navigate toward other injured service members and provide combat casualty care. Afterward, he assisted in clearing a safe, IED-free path to establish a helicopter landing zone. "We are all trained and everyone is



looking out for one another; we have each other's back," he said. "I would not change anything. I was only serving my country."

When asked if he thought himself a hero, Graham replied in the negative. "I don't consider myself a hero," he said. "The heroes are the service members who give [their] life."

Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne said this event is a moment of pride to be given the opportunity to present the award.

"It is really heartening to be able to recognize Graham amongst his comrades here and to recognize his great action," said Payne. "We are standing here together to recognize the tremendous work Petty Officer Graham did in Afghanistan."

U.S. NAVY/LEAH ECLAVEA

Rear Adm. Tilghman Payne, commander, Joint Region Marianas, presents the Purple Heart to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician (EWS/PJ) 1st Class Rashid Graham, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, during a ceremony on U.S. Naval Base Guam on June 16. Graham received the award for his service after being injured while in Afghanistan.

Guam salvage operation on grounded ship is completed

APRA HARBOR, Guam—Salvage operations and cleanup efforts of Daiki Maru 7 have successfully concluded with a final meeting of the unified command on Naval Base Guam on May 23.

Since the Japanese commercial fishing vessel ran aground in outer Apra Harbor Feb. 13, the Navy and its partners have conducted recovery and salvage operations with focus on the protection of the environment.

"This operation was an amazing success," said Capt. Mike Ward, U.S. Naval Base Guam commanding officer. "The response occurred in an environmentally safe manner and it is a great testament to the teamwork involved."

Ward said lessons learned during the recovery and salvage operations will be reviewed to enable the Navy to improve response efforts for possible future events.

"When incidents like this occur, we always learn from them and the unified command reacted very quickly and collaboratively," Ward said.

The unified command consists of representatives from Naval Base Guam, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and the responsible party. Other agencies that have been involved in all as-



U.S. NAVY/TIMOTHY WILSON

Leaders from the unified command, which is tasked to implement, execute and manage salvage operations for the Daiki Maru 7, pose for a photo following a meeting declaring the operation has been successfully completed May 23. Since Feb. 13, the Navy and its partners have collectively performed recovery and salvage operations of the grounded Japanese vessel while mitigating environmental damage to outer Apra Harbor.

pects of planning from the standup include Joint Region Marianas operations

department, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas environmen-

tal personnel, NOAA, Guam Fish and Wildlife Service, Guam Environmental

Protection Agency, Mammoet Salvage and Osroco. (PR)



COMPLETION CEREMONY

The Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute recently awarded certificates of completion to participants of the Workforce L.I.F.E. Program. The courses in the program are designed to help U.S. citizens and residents transition into meaningful and sustainable careers or to help those who are already employed to acquire new skills or enhance existing ones. The courses are made possible by CW fees at no charge to participants and are taught by highly experienced and knowledgeable instructors.

Business

Income gap widens as American factories shut down

READING, Pa. (AP)—In August 2008, factory workers David and Barbara Ludwig treated themselves to new cars—David a Dodge pickup, Barbara a sporty Mazda 3. With David making \$22 an hour and Barbara \$19, they could easily afford the payments.

A month later, Baldwin Hardware, a unit of Stanley Black & Decker Corp., announced layoffs at the Reading plant where they both worked. David was unemployed for 20 months before finding a janitor job that paid \$10 an hour, less than half his previous wage. Barbara hung on, but she, too, lost her shipping-dock job of 26 years as Black & Decker shifted production to Mexico. Now she cleans houses for \$10 an hour while looking for something permanent.

They still have the cars. The other trappings of their middle-class lifestyle? In the rear-view mirror.

The downfall of manufacturing in the U.S. has done more than displace workers and leave communities searching for ways to rebuild devastated economies. In Reading and other American factory towns, manufacturing's decline is a key factor in the widening income gap between the rich and everyone else, as people like the Lud-

wigs have been forced into far lower-paying work.

It's not that there's a lack of jobs, but gains often come at either the highest end of the wage spectrum—or the lowest.

"A loss of manufacturing has contributed to the decline of the middle class," said Howard Wial, an economist with the Brookings Institution and the University of Illinois at Chicago. "People who are displaced from high-paying manufacturing jobs spend a long time unemployed, and when they take other jobs, those jobs generally pay substantially less."

Globalization, automation and recession destroyed nearly 6 million manufacturing jobs between 2000 and 2009. In Pennsylvania, between 2001 and 2011, 258,000 middle-income factory jobs were lost. At the same time, Pennsylvania added jobs at the lower end of the wage spectrum—in health care and social services—and at the highest end, in sectors like management and finance.

Berks County, of which Reading (pronounced REH'-ding) is the county seat, is a mirror of that larger problem.

Decades ago, Reading was a mighty manufacturing town where the Reading Railroad—once the world's largest com-

pany, now a spot on the Monopoly board—built a 19th-century transportation empire, and factories produced everything from hats to hardware. At one time, the city boasted so many manufacturing jobs that you could quit one, cross the street and easily land another, longtime residents say.

"You made a very, very good middle-class living. You could get a new car every couple years, send kids to college," recalled Ed McCann, Berks County's longtime director of workforce development.

Then the factories shut down. The wealthy fled to the suburbs, their grand Gilded Age mansions carved up into apartments, and poor immigrants moved in. Now Reading, population 88,000, is one of the nation's neediest cities, with more than 40 percent of its residents living in poverty, up from 19 percent in 1990.

As poverty grew, so too did the gap between the rich and everyone else. The difference between the income earned by the wealthiest 5 percent in Berks County and by a median-income household rose 13.2 percent in 20 years, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Nationally, the wealth gap became even more pronounced, increasing 15.8 percent.

Don't 'confront' new boss over changing procedures

QUESTION: Recently, a new manager was transferred to our store from a different location. "Gwen" apparently wants everything to be just like it was at her previous workplace. Instead of trying to understand how we do things here, she has turned the place upside down with one change after another.

The employees constantly complain that they can't keep up with all these changes. Morale is at an all-time low, and customer service is declining. I would like to help solve this problem, but I'm not sure what to do. Should I confront Gwen and let her know how everyone feels?

ANSWER: When dealing with a new boss, "confront" is a dangerous word to use. Even if Gwen's changes are misguided, an adversarial approach will only damage your relationship with her. New managers always have fresh ideas, and they tend to regard critics as obstructive and resistant to change.

Nor should you volunteer to "let her know how everyone feels," because that will make you look like a rabble-rouser. If the whole group is upset, then the whole group needs to discuss the problem. The key, however, is not to focus on feelings, but to explain the business issue.

For example: "Gwen, we want you to know that we appreciate the experience you

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



bring from your previous store. However, learning so many new procedures at once has been difficult and has slowed our service to customers. Do you think we could have a meeting to review all the changes, then wait a few weeks before making any more?"

If your concerns are presented in a supportive, helpful manner, Gwen might actually listen. But if you begin criticizing her leadership style, you will only start an argument that you are undoubtedly going to lose.

Q: Our company recently instituted exercise workouts for "professional development," even though our jobs don't involve any physical labor. Given my age and knee problems, I am concerned about participating in these sessions. I also worry that non-participation could affect my career, because the leader of this effort is close to our CEO.

So far, I have joined with some other reluctant employees who walk on the outskirts of the exercise group, but

this feels very conspicuous. A co-worker suggested that I explain my situation to management, but I prefer not to share personal medical information. Although I think these sessions are ridiculous, I don't want to make waves. What should I do?

A: People who excitedly promote workplace workouts or vigorous teambuilding games often forget that some employees, like yourself, have limitations that they prefer not to broadcast. Others simply dislike exercising at work for a variety of reasons. So unless these activities are clearly job-related, participation should always be voluntary.

Unfortunately, however, your company doesn't share this view. Since you would rather not disclose your medical circumstances, your best option may be to stick with the walking group and wait to see whether anyone cares. If enough people choose this alternative, walking may come to be viewed as a standard part of the program.

Nation

For Obama, fresh questions about how wars end

WASHINGTON (AP)—From the Rose Garden, President Barack Obama outlined a timetable for the gradual withdrawal of the last U.S. troops in Afghanistan and said confidently, «This is how wars end in the 21st century.»

But less than three weeks after his May 27 announcement, there is a sudden burst of uncertainty surrounding the way Obama has moved to bring the two conflicts he inherited to a close.

In Iraq, a fast-moving Islamic insurgency is pressing toward Baghdad, raising the possibility of fresh American military action more than two years after the last U.S. troops withdrew. The chaos in Iraq also raises questions about whether Obama's plans to keep a small military presence in Afghanistan until the end of 2016 can prevent a similar backslide there or whether extremists are simply lying in wait until the U.S. withdrawal deadline passes.

«Could all of this have been avoided? The answer is absolutely yes,» Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said of the deteriorating situation in Iraq. McCain,



Obama

one of the White House's chief foreign policy critics and Obama's 2008 presidential rival, added that Obama is «about to make the same mistake in Afghanistan he made in Iraq.»

That criticism strikes at the heart of Obama's clearest foreign policy pledge: a commitment to ending the conflicts started by his predecessor, George W. Bush, and keeping the U.S. out of further military entanglements.

The turmoil in Iraq presents a particularly troubling dilemma for the White House. Obama's early opposition to the Iraq war was a defining factor in his 2008 presidential campaign and he cast the withdrawal of all American troops in late 2011 as a promise fulfilled. The president and his top advisers have since cited the end of the war as one of Obama's top achievements in office.

But the vacuum left by

American forces has been filled by waves of resurgent violence and burgeoning Sunni extremism. Still, Obama resisted calls for the U.S. to get involved, saying it was now Iraq's sovereign government's responsibility to ensure the country's security.

The current situation in Iraq appears to have made that stance untenable.

Obama, who once called Iraq a «dumb war,» now says it is clear the government in Baghdad needs more help from the U.S. in order to contain a violent al-Qaida inspired group that, he said, could pose a threat to American security interests.

While the White House is still evaluating a range of options, administration officials say the president is considering strikes with manned aircrafts, but only if Iraqi leaders were to outline a political plan for easing sectarian tensions.

Even limited and targeted U.S. airstrikes in Iraq would mark an almost unimaginable turn of events for many of the war-weary Americans who twice elected Obama president.

Rodents winning NY rat race, but humans fight back

NEW YORK (AP)—Ines Moore stirs awake nearly every night to an unmistakable, skin-crawling sound: rats skittering around her apartment in the dark.

Sticky traps scattered around the tidy, fifth-floor walkup yield as many as three rats a night, what she believes is just a fraction of the invading army that makes her feel under siege.

"I feel good in the United States—except for this. Here, in my home," said Moore, a Dominican immigrant who can't afford to leave her rent-controlled apartment in northern Manhattan's Washington

Heights.

Her neighborhood is among the most rat-infested in New York City, along with West Harlem, Chinatown, the Lower East Side and the South Bronx. They are the focus of the city's latest effort to attack a rat population that some experts estimate could be double that of the Big Apple's 8.4 million people.

Starting next month, the city's 45 inspectors will be bolstered by nine new employees of a pilot program to tackle the vermin in chronically infested neighborhoods where rats have resisted repeated efforts to

eradicate them.

Specific targets are rat reservoirs such as parks, sewers, dumping areas and subways where they congregate and breed. The idea is to tamp down the population where it is strongest and keep it from spreading.

"Rats burrow and live in colonies," Health Commissioner Mary Bassett told the City Council at a hearing last month. "I'll sometimes imagine when I walk through a park, if I could have sort of a 'rat vision,' there are all these tunnels under there that are occupied by rats. And from there the rats fan out."

Changing pot laws prompt child-endangerment review

DENVER (AP)—A Colorado man loses custody of his children after getting a medical marijuana card. The daughter of a Michigan couple growing legal medicinal pot is taken by child-protection authorities after an ex-husband says their plants endangered kids.

And police officers in New Jersey visit a home after a 9-year-old mentions his mother's hemp advocacy at school.

While the cases were eventually decided in favor of the parents, the incidents underscore a growing dilemma: While a pot plant in the basement may not bring criminal charges in many

states, the same plant can become a piece of evidence in child custody or abuse cases.

"The legal standard is always the best interest of the children, and you can imagine how subjective that can get," said Jess Cochrane, who helped found Boston-based Family Law & Cannabis Alliance after finding child-abuse laws have been slow to catch up with pot policy.

No data exist to show how often pot use comes up in custody disputes, or how often child-welfare workers intervene in homes where marijuana is used.

But in dozens of interviews with lawyers and officials

who work in this area, along with activists who counsel parents on marijuana and child endangerment, the consensus is clear: Pot's growing acceptance is complicating the task of determining when kids are in danger.

A failed proposal in the Colorado Legislature this year showed the dilemma.

Colorado considers adult marijuana use legal, but pot is still treated like heroin and other Schedule I substances as they are under federal law. As a result, when it comes to defining a drug-endangered child, pot can't legally be in a home where children reside.

Asia

PH against South China Sea constructions

BEIJING (AP)—The Philippines said Monday it would propose a moratorium on construction in the South China Sea, two days after China began building a school on a rugged outpost it created to strengthen its claims to disputed waters.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said he will propose that the Association of Southeast Asian Nations call for a moratorium—a move that China is likely to ignore or dismiss.

“I think we would use the international community to step up and to say that we need to manage the tensions in the South China Sea before it gets out of hand,” del Rosario said.

China began building a school on the largest island in the disputed Paracel chain to serve the children of military personnel and others on Saturday, two years after it established a city there to administer hundreds of thousands of square kilometers (miles) of water where it wants to strengthen its control over potentially oil-rich

islands that are also claimed by other Asian nations.

The island, known as Yongxing Island and Woody Island, is 350 kilometers (220 miles) south of China’s southernmost province. Vietnam also claims the Paracel chain.

Del Rosario told ABS-CBN News that China is accelerating its “expansion agenda” in the South China Sea to get it completed before ASEAN countries and China draw up a code of conduct that sets rules to prevent incidents in the South China Sea.

He said a suggestion from Danny Russel, the U.S. top diplomat in East Asia, for a freeze in activities which escalate tensions in the area while a code of conduct is being worked out is “a reasonable approach” and one “I would like to initiate.”

When China created Sansha city on Yongxing Island in July 2012, the outpost had a post office, bank, supermarket, hospital and a population of about 1,000.

By December, it had a permanent population of 1,443, which can sometimes swell by 2,000, according to the Sansha government.

Now it has an airport, hotel, library, five main roads, cell-phone coverage and a 24-hour satellite TV station, according to the government. It also has its own supply ship that brings in food, water, construction materials and people.

Tensions in the area have escalated since China last month placed an oil rig in waters about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the Paracel Islands, leading to ongoing sea confrontations between Chinese and Vietnamese vessels.

On Sunday, the Philippines announced it had recently protested a land reclamation by China in the McKennan-Hughes reef in the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea. In April, Philippine officials protested after discovering Chinese vessels had reclaimed a large patch of land in Johnson South Reef, also in the Spratlys.

Pakistan army launches offensive against militants

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The Pakistani army Sunday launched a long-awaited operation against foreign and local militants in a tribal region near the Afghan border, hours after jets pounded insurgent hideouts in the country’s northwest, the army said.

The move effectively ends the government’s policy of trying to negotiate with Pakistani Taliban militants instead of using force to end the years of fighting that has killed tens of thousands of civilians and security forces. It comes a week after the militants laid siege to the country’s largest airport in an attack that shocked the country.

The North Waziristan tribal area, where the operation is targeted, is one of the last areas in the tribal regions where

the military has not launched a large operation. Militant groups including the Pakistani Taliban, al-Qaida and the Haqqani network have long used the region as a base from which to attack both Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan.

“Using North Waziristan as a base, these terrorists had waged a war against the state of Pakistan,” military spokesman Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa said in a press release announcing the operation.

The U.S. has pushed Pakistan to clear out militants in North Waziristan because they often use it as a sanctuary from which to attack NATO and Afghan troops. But Pakistan has said its troops were already too spread out across the northwest, and the military has also wanted political

support from the civilian government to carry out an operation which will likely spark a bloody backlash across the country.

On Sunday night, the defense minister aggressively supported the operation, but there were no comments from Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

“Now we have to fight this do or die war,” Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif told Pakistan’s Dunya Television. “We will fight it till the end.”

There was no immediate information on how many troops were involved. The military said troops had been deployed along the borders to prevent militants from escaping, and within North Waziristan troops had cordoned off areas including the largest cities of Mir Ali and Miranshah.

on a motive for the Sunday evening attack in Hotan city in the region’s south. The report on the Hotan government’s website said the civilians who had been playing chess fought back and sounded an alarm, which led people from neighboring businesses and others to come and encircle the attackers with unspecified weapons. Armed patrol forces soon arrived and brought the attackers under control with the help of locals. Two died and the third was wounded and arrested, it said, adding that four civilians were wounded. Calls to Hotan’s publicity department and police rang unanswered Monday.

were given prison sentences, with four receiving terms of five to 20 years and one getting a life sentence. It was not clear what role those five had played in the attack.

3 attackers with knives enter Xinjiang games room

BEIJING (AP)—Three assailants with knives rushed into a card room to attack people in China’s western region of Xinjiang, in a clash that drew armed security forces, a local government’s website reported. Two of the attackers were killed and the third one wounded and captured. The report gave no details

World

Rise of Shiite militias could fracture Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Emboldened by a call to arms by the top Shiite cleric, Iranian-backed militias have moved quickly to the center of Iraq’s political landscape, spearheading what its Shiite majority sees as a fight for survival against Sunni militants who control of large swaths of territory north of Baghdad.

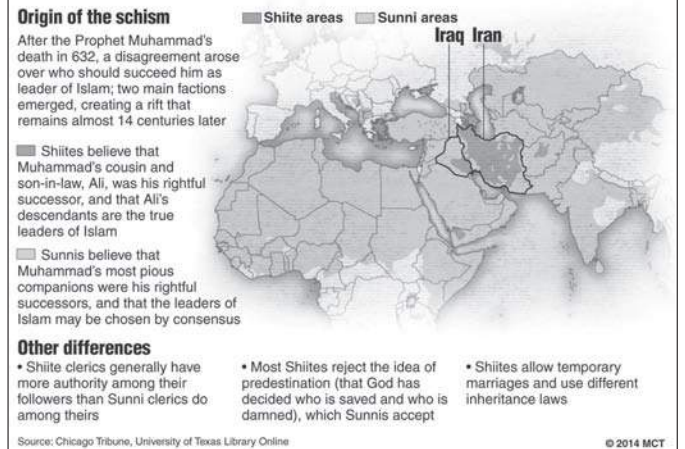
The emergence of the militias as a legitimate force enjoying the support of the Shiite-led government and the blessing of the religious establishment poses a threat to Iraq’s unity, planting the seed for new sectarian strife and taking the regional Shiite-Sunni divide to a potentially explosive level.

Iraq’s Shiite militias attacked U.S. forces during the eight-year American presence in the country. They also were in the lead in the Sunni-Shiite killings of 2006-07, pushing Iraq to the brink of civil war. Their death squads targeted radical Sunnis and they orchestrated the cleansing of Sunnis from several Baghdad neighborhoods.

More recently, Shiite militias have been battling alongside the forces of President Bashar Assad and

Sunnis and Shiites: Two forms of Islam

Iraq’s most senior Shia cleric has issued a call to arms, as Sunni-led Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) threaten southern Iraq, dominated by the country’s Shia Muslim majority. Although Shiites make up about 60 percent of the country, they constitute only about 10 percent to 20 percent of Muslims worldwide. Neighboring Iran has the world’s largest Shiite population.



Lebanon’s Shiite Hezbollah against mostly Sunni rebels and militants in neighboring Syria. Some of them have returned home to Iraq—first to fight Sunni militants in Anbar province, and now on Baghdad’s northern fringes and in Salahuddin and Ninevah provinces.

Those are the areas where the Sunni militants from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, captured cities and towns in a lightning offensive last week. Among their gains were Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city, and Tikrit,

the hometown of Saddam Hussein.

Security officials said Shiite militiamen have been fighting for months on the government’s side against ISIL fighters in areas west of Baghdad in mainly Sunni Anbar province as well as parts of Diyala province northeast of the capital. They also have been fighting Sunni militants south of Baghdad. Their involvement, however, has never been publicly acknowledged by the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Rio officer shoots live round during Cup protest

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A police officer sitting on a motorcycle can be seen on an Associated Press video firing what appeared to be a live pistol round at anti-World Cup protesters Sunday near Rio de Janeiro’s Maracana soccer stadium.

During the small but violent and chaotic protest that played out about 1.5 kilometers (1 mile) from the stadium, a second man, who was in street clothes but identified himself as a police officer, also pulled a pistol and fired two shots into the air. The AP couldn’t confirm the man was an officer.

Pedro Dantas, a spokesman for the Rio de Janeiro

security secretariat that oversees all security forces, said in a phone interview that if authorities verify the accuracy of the video, “we’ll immediately open an investigation into the incident.”

In a later emailed statement, the secretariat said riot police were hit by Molotov cocktails thrown by protesters. The statement didn’t indicate if any officers were hurt.

The action took place around the beginning of the soccer game between Argentina and Bosnia-Herzegovina - the first World Cup match played in Maracana stadium since 1950.

“We’re seeing tonight the same police brutality we’ve

seen during the past year, and that’s why we have to keep protesting,” said Karen Rodrigues, a 23-year-old student at the demonstration that drew around 200 people.

Another protest occurred in the capital, Brasilia, but drew only a handful of participants, and a small protest also was held in Porto Alegre.

Mass protests broke out across Brazil during last year’s Confederations Cup soccer tournament, the warm-up to FIFA’s premier event. At that time, more than 1 million Brazilians took to the streets on a single day in the largest demonstrations this South American nation had seen in a generation.

Pope laments a ‘tired’ Europe; decries joblessness

ROME (AP)—Pope Francis on Sunday criticized Europe for becoming what he called “tired” because of low birth rates and the increasing numbers of young people who neither work nor study.

Francis delivered the harsh assessment as he visited an ancient Rome basilica in Trastevere, a traditionally working-class neighborhood that is also home to a Catholic organization, Sant’Egidio Community, whose volunteers help the elderly, immigrants and other needy.

Francis said Europe often

“discards” both its elderly, by shunting them aside, and its young, by failing to provide work.

“A people which doesn’t care for its elderly, which doesn’t take care of its young people, is a people without a future, a people without hope,” Francis said.

The pope said by helping both young and old, “you begin to renew society.”

As he did earlier in the day, when he addressed tens of thousands of faithful in St. Peter’s Square, Francis asked for others’ prayers.

“You need to pray for me in overtime,” Francis quipped.

Last week, Francis canceled two days of meetings after coming down with what the Vatican would only describe as a “mild” illness. He was back in the public eye Wednesday, appearing to hold up well in the hot, humid heat during his weekly audience.

Earlier Sunday, Francis announced he had accepted an invitation to go to Albania in September. In August, he flies to South Korea for events that include a jamboree with Catholic youths.

ASIAN BRIEFS

3 sentenced to death in Tiananmen Gate attack

BEIJING (AP)—A court in western China sentenced three people to death Monday for planning a deadly car ramming at Beijing’s iconic Tiananmen Gate that was blamed on Muslim separatists, state media reported. The three were accused of helping prepare for the Oct. 28 attack, in which a car plowed through tourists and ended up in a fiery crash in the heart of Beijing, killing two bystanders and the three attackers. A court in the Xinjiang regional capital of Urumqi sentenced the three to death, the official Xinhua News Agency said. Five other people

Focus

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Islamic militants who overran cities and towns in Iraq last week posted graphic photos that appeared to show their gunmen massacring scores of captured Iraqi soldiers, while the prime minister vowed Sunday to “liberate every inch” of captured territory.

The pictures on a militant website appear to show masked fighters of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, loading the captives onto flat-bed trucks before forcing them to lie face-down in a shallow ditch with their arms tied behind their backs. The final images show the bodies of the captives soaked in blood after being shot at several locations.

Chief military spokesman Lt. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi confirmed the photos’ authenticity and said he was aware of cases of mass murder of captured Iraqi soldiers in areas held by ISIL. He told The Associated Press that an examination of the images by military experts showed that about 170 soldiers were shot to death by the militants after their capture.

Captions on the photos showing the soldiers after they were shot say “hundreds have been liquidated,” but the total could not immediately be verified.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the ISIL militants’ claim of killing the Iraqi troops “is horrifying and a true depiction of the bloodlust that those terrorists represent.”

She added that a claim that 1,700 were killed could not be confirmed by the U.S.

On Friday, U.N. human rights chief Navi Pillay warned against “murder of all kinds” and other war crimes in Iraq, saying the number killed in recent days may run into the hundreds. She said in a statement that her office had received reports that militants rounded up and killed Iraqi soldiers as well as 17 civilians in a single street in Mosul. Her office also heard of “summary executions and extrajudicial killings” after ISIL militants overran Iraqi cities and towns, she said.

The grisly images could sap the morale of Iraq’s security forces, but they could also heighten sectarian tensions. Thousands of Shiites are already heeding a call from their most revered spiritual leader to take up arms against the Sunni militants who have swept across the north in the worst instability in Iraq since the U.S. withdrawal in 2011.

ISIL has vowed to take the battle to Baghdad and cities farther south housing revered Shiite shrines.

Although the government bolstered defenses around Baghdad, a series of explosions inside the capital killed at least



This image posted on a militant website on Saturday, June 14, 2014, which has been verified and is consistent with other AP reporting, appears to show militants from the al-Qaida-inspired Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) taking aim at captured Iraqi soldiers wearing plain clothes after taking over a base in Tikrit, Iraq. AP

Militants post photos of MASS KILLING IN IRAQ

19 people and wounded more than 40, police and hospital officials said.

Security at the U.S. Embassy was strengthened and some staff members sent elsewhere in Iraq and to neighboring Jordan, the State Department said. A military official said about 150 Marines have been sent to Baghdad to help with embassy security.

The State Department issued a travel warning for Iraq Sunday night that cautioned U.S. citizens to avoid “all but essential travel to Iraq.”

“Baghdad International Airport has been struck by mortar rounds and rockets, and the Mosul International Airport has been the target of militant assault,” the travel warning added.

While the city of 7 million is not in any immediate danger of falling to the militants, food prices have risen—twofold in some cases—because of transportation disruptions on the main road heading north from the capital. The city is under a nighttime curfew that begins at 10 p.m.

In a fiery speech to volunteers south of Baghdad, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki vowed to regain territory captured last week by the ISIL.

“We will march and liberate every inch they defaced, from the country’s northernmost point to the southernmost point,” he said. The volunteers responded with Shiite chants.

On Saturday, hundreds of armed Shiite men paraded through the streets of Baghdad

in response to a call by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani for Iraqis to defend their country. ISIL has vowed to attack Baghdad but its advance to the south seems to have stalled in recent days. Thousands of Shiites have also volunteered to join the fight against the ISIL, also in response to al-Sistani’s call.

Armed police, including SWAT teams, were seen at checkpoints in Baghdad, searching vehicles and checking drivers’ documents. Security was particularly tightened on the northern and western approaches, the likely targets of ISIL fighters on the capital.

The city looked gloomy Sunday, with thin traffic and few shoppers in commercial areas. At a popular park along the Tigris River, only a fraction of the thousands who usually head there were present in the evening. In the commercial Karada district in central Baghdad, many of the sidewalk hawkers who sell anything from shoes to toys and clothes were absent.

According to police and hospital officials, a car bomb in the city center killed 10 and wounded 21. After nightfall, another explosion hit the area, killing two and wounding five. A third went off near a falafel shop in the sprawling Sadr City district, killing three and wounding seven. And late Sunday, a fourth blast in the northern Sulaikh district killed four and wounded 12.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they

were not authorized to speak to the media.

Suicide and car bombings in recent months have mostly targeting Shiite neighborhoods or security forces.

Psaki said in a statement that much of the embassy staff will remain even as parts of Iraq experience instability and violence.

“Overall, a substantial majority of the U.S. Embassy presence in Iraq will remain in place and the embassy will be fully equipped to carry out its national security mission,” she said.

Some staff was temporarily moved elsewhere in Iraq and to Jordan, she said.

Secretary of State John Kerry called foreign ministers in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar to discuss the need for Iraqi leaders to work together.

The USS George H.W. Bush arrived in the Persian Gulf as President Barack Obama considers possible military options, although he has ruled out putting American troops on the ground in Iraq.

Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby has said the move will give Obama additional flexibility if military action were required to protect American citizens and interests in Iraq.

In neighboring Iran, the acting commander of the Islamic Republic’s army ground forces, Gen. Kiomars Heidari, said Iran has increased its defenses along

its western border with Iraq, though there was no immediate threat to the frontier.

Iraqi government officials said ISIL fighters were trying to capture the city of Tal Afar in the north and firing rockets seized from military arms depots. The officials said the local garrison suffered heavy casualties and the main hospital was unable to cope with the wounded, without providing exact numbers.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to reporters. Tal Afar is mainly inhabited by Turkmen, an ethnic minority.

Al-Moussawi, the military spokesman, confirmed fighting was raging at Tal Afar, but indicated that the militants were suffering heavy casualties. On all fronts north of Baghdad, he said, a total of 297 militants have been killed in the past 24 hours.

There was no way to independently confirm his claims.

ISIL and allied Sunni militants captured a large part of northern Iraq last week, including the second-largest city of Mosul and Saddam Hussein’s hometown of Tikrit, as Iraqi troops, many of them armed and trained by the U.S., fled in disarray, surrendering vehicles, weapons and ammunition to the extremist group, which also fights in Syria.

The photos of the Iraqi soldiers purported to have been killed did not provide a date or location, but al-Moussawi said the killings took place in Salahuddin province. Its capital is Tikrit.

The photo captions said their deaths were to avenge the killing of an ISIL commander, Abdul-Rahman al-Beilawy. His death was reported by both the government and ISIL shortly before the al-Qaida splinter group’s lightning offensive.

“This is the fate that awaits the Shiites sent by Nouri to fight the Sunnis,” one caption read, apparently referring to al-Maliki.

Most of the soldiers in the photos were in civilian clothes. Some were shown wearing military uniforms underneath, indicating they may have hastily disguised themselves as civilians to try to escape.

Some of the soldiers appeared to be pleading for their lives; others seemed terrified.

All the soldiers appeared to be in their early 20s, with some wearing European soccer jerseys. Some of the militants wore black baggy pants and shirts, many of them had sandals or flip flops.

Iraqi authorities appear to be trying to limit the dissemination of such images and other militant propaganda being shared through social media and to deny the militants their use for operational purposes.

Martin Frank, the CEO of IQ Networks, an Internet service provider in Iraq, told the AP that authorities have ordered multiple social media sites, including YouTube, Facebook and Twitter, to be blocked. On Sunday, they tightened the restrictions further by telling network operators to halt traffic for virtual private networks, which allow users to bypass Internet filters.

Internet traffic in several areas overrun by militants, including Mosul and Tikrit, was ordered cut off altogether, he said. No timeframe was given for the shutdowns.

At the United Nations, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued a statement Sunday night warning “against sectarian rhetoric that could further exacerbate the conflict,” and calling on all Iraqi leaders, “to ensure that their followers avoid acts of reprisal.”

Overdrive

Toyota Highlander ready for all challenges

By BARRY SPYKER
THE MIAMI HERALD

Long ago, on the Little League field, came that age-old claim: "My daddy's bigger than your daddy."

Today, the astute little bug-gers may say, "My daddy's SUV carries more kids and baseball equipment than your daddy's SUV."

Well, maybe they won't. But Toyota this year can certainly accept that challenge with its refreshed, roomier 2014 Highlander that now can accommodate eight people—providing several of them fit into those Little League uniforms.

And there's more room behind the seats for the equipment bags. It's no surprise Toyota, competing chiefly with the eight-passenger Honda Pilot, expanded space for people, cargo and other good stuff in the new Highlander. It did an admirable job with the new cabin, including some tech goodies, too.

There's even a new feature called Driver Easy Speak, which features a one-way microphone so Dad/Coach can bark some post-game commentary to the kids in the third row: "Eye on the ball!"

Highlander has upped the ante inside, starting with sharp perforated leather trim—on the first and second row—that features contrast stitching on most models. Silver, chrome and wood-grain accents make for an upscale look. So does the available ambient lighting around the front dash and doors.

Seats are comfortable and offer good support, and the rear seats are easy to accommodate

the gang since the second row now has a one-step sliding seat function on both sides. The third row is nearly 4 inches wider to add comfort for three passengers back there.

And with eight cupholders and 4 water-bottle holders, the Highlander will leave no one on the team thirsty.

Rear-cargo space behind the third row is 34 percent bigger this year, so there's lots of space for equipment, golf clubs or groceries.

For you cold-clime types: heated seats up front and in the second-row captain's chairs, plus a heated steering wheel. As a Floridian, all this talk makes me want to turn down the A/C.

One of the most talked-about highlights inside, of all things, is a unique recessed shelf that runs along the bottom of the entire dash—a great place for cellphones, snacks, sunglasses.

Kids can take their minds off the game with the rear entertainment system. Up front, a 6.1-inch touch screen is standard; an 8-incher with available apps and smartphone integration is optional.

Outside, Highlander underwent some evolution in looks, with wraparound headlights and a wider grille. Fenders are more deeply chiseled. A broader rear window enhances visibility.

Highlander keeps the same power choices, starting with a 2.7-liter 4-banger that puts out 187 horses. Better to move up to the 3.5-liter V-6, which makes 270 hp. The V-6 gets nearly the same mileage as the 4, with an EPA-estimated 19 mph city, 25 highway.

Despite keeping with the 6-speed automatic, the Highlander gets down the road well enough. It is not as powerful or quick as some competitors, but it's adequate. I did not feel it was underpowered even in passing situations.

Also available is a hybrid that offers pretty good power: a 3.5-liter V-6 combined with a trio of electric motors. Together they produce 280 horses. Not bad, you say? I did not drive it but I've read that the extra weight makes it feel sluggish. And, amazingly, the mpg doesn't seem that much better at 27 city, 28 highway.

On the road, Highlander is respectably comfortable and stable, helped by improved suspension—spring rates and shocks have been better tuned. Cornering is OK, too.

This is a front-wheel-drive crossover, but an all-wheel-drive system is available and will transfer torque from front to rear if sensors detect any wheel slippage.

Another safety feature, one that is standard this year: rear-view camera with rear cross-



TOYOTA/MCT

The 2014 Toyota Highlander has a new body, a more refined cabin and upgraded safety and technology features.

traffic warning. Other high-tech safety features include parking sensors, lane-departure alert, blind-spot warning and pre-collision warning systems.

The base LE comes well equipped with 18-inch wheels and 6.1-inch touch screen for Bluetooth, phone and music streaming. Step up to the LE Plus and get fog lights, power rear liftgate, 8-way power seats with lumbar adjustment.

The XLE adds push-button

start, leather seats, roof rails, moonroof, second-row sunshades, and 8-inch touch screen with navigation.

Go for it all, to the Limited, and get 19-inch wheels, perforated leather seats with memory settings, and standard high-tech

safety goodies.

The rear-entertainment system is optional for the Limited and Hybrid. So, after that 17-2 shellacking the boys just took, you might need to slip in that "Baseball the Ripken Way" instructional video.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Toyota Highlander:

■ Base price, test model: \$29,215

Should 2 new tires go on front or rear?

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 2011 Mustang GT 5.0-liter with 36,000 miles. It has the Brembo brake package and Goodyear F1 tires on it. I'm ready to replace the worn rear tires again with the new OE Goodyears.

Last time I replaced the rear tires, I placed the new tires on the front and moved the older front tires to the rear. Now people are telling me that I should place the new tires on the rear drive-axle to reduce the chance of oversteer that might be induced by having too much fun in a curve. With an everyday car, I believe that understeer would be the greatest concern, but with 412 horsepower and almost 400 pound-feet of torque, maybe the new tires should be on the back. Which end of the car should the two new tires be placed on my Mustang, and is a nitrogen fill worthwhile?

ANSWER: On the back. Like you, my first thought was that new tires should be mounted on the front and the older, worn front tires moved to the rear. Because the front tires do a far higher percentage of braking and, of course, steer the vehicle, my instincts said put the best tires on the front.

But since loss of traction from the front tires—the "understeer"

you mention—is easier to correct than "oversteer"—loss of traction from the rear tires—the recommendation for replacing just two tires is to mount the new ones on the rear.

In short, correcting understeer involves "breathing" back the throttle or modulating brake pressure to help the front tires regain traction. Oversteer, on the other hand, requires an instantaneous steering correction in the direction the back end is trying to go in order to keep the front tires pointed where the vehicle is headed, while at the same time neutralizing the throttle—not accelerating and not decelerating—to stop any wheel spin. If and when the rear end regains traction and wants to snap back—so-called "overcorrecting," a complete misnomer—the steering must be straightened in time with the rear end snapping back to keep the front wheels pointed where the vehicle is traveling.

In the racing schools I teach, we label the correction for oversteer as a three-step process: correct/pause/recover, CPR for short, an easy acronym to remember.

Nitrogen contains no moisture and is less prone to pressure changes with temperature changes, so filling tires with nitrogen makes some sense, but only if you continue to use nitrogen to top up tire pressures.

Q: I own a 2001 Dodge Dakota and would like to clean the engine. Is it OK to take it to a self-service car wash and

power wash it?

A: It must be. Ever seen a used car on a dealer lot with a dirty engine? It's OK to clean the engine and engine compartment as long as you cover any sensitive wiring and electronics and don't aim the high-pressure spray directly at these com-

ponents. Remember, engines and drivetrains get wet when vehicles are driven in the rain. The wiring harnesses and connectors used on modern automobiles are designed to be relatively weatherproof.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver.

Ford to correct fuel economy for 6 models

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday that Ford Motor Co. is revising the fuel economy (mpg) estimates for six vehicle models to correct errors found in an internal Ford audit. Ford is required to correct fuel economy labels on affected vehicles within 15 days.

EPA oversaw Ford's retesting program and conducted independent tests to confirm the corrected results as soon as it was notified by Ford of the potential errors. Ford has agreed to implement enhanced validation tests for future vehicles under EPA oversight.

"This issue highlights the need for continued strong oversight of the fuel economy labeling program," said Chris Grun-dler, director of EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality. "Consumers need to trust that fuel economy window stickers are giving consumers reliable and fair estimates of real world fuel economy."

Cars currently in dealer lots will be relabeled with new window stickers reflecting the corrected mileage estimates.

Ford will relabel four versions of the Ford Fiesta, the Hybrid and Energi versions of the Ford Fusion, the C-Max Hybrid and Energi, and the Lincoln MKZ Hybrid. Most labels will change between 1 and 5 miles per gallon. The largest change is for the Lincoln MKZ hybrid whose combined city and highway fuel economy value has been reduced by 7 mpg. EPA and DOE have updated their joint fuel economy site, www.fueleconomy.gov, to reflect the corrected numbers.

EPA's National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor, Mich., conducts fuel economy testing on a number of vehicles each year to ensure that their performance matches the mileage and emissions data submitted to EPA by automakers. These "spot-checks" are part of the oversight program that helps verify that vehicles on the road meet tailpipe emission standards to protect public health and the environment and that all car-makers follow the same procedures for calculating mileage estimates. (EPA)

Death & Funeral Announcement

†**Guillermo Litulumar Saures**
Lovingly known as "Temmo/Gil"

He Will Be Greatly Missed and His Memories Will Forever Live On In The Hearts and Minds of His Children and Family:

Anning M. & John Mettao (Debra, Maria, Marlo, Devenie)
Doring Moteisou (Doriann, Michelle, Gerlyn Libunao)
William (Bill) M. & Anna M. Saures (Kyoko, Keiki, Guillermo)
Benedict T. Saures & Jamie S. Ada

Wife: Ignacia Taisakan Saures

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents: †Guillermo (Atippong) Peter Saures/
†Dolores Matagolai Litulumar Saures

Brother: †Felix L. Saures

Sister: †Carmen L. Napail

Reared Parents: †Francisco B. Kaipat/
†Mathilde Libweilugh Matagolai Kaipat

On Wednesday, June 18, 2014, his remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel at 7:30 A.M. to the Immaculada Korason De Maria Chapel in Chalan Laulau for viewing and last respects. At 10:00 A.M. his remains will be escorted from Immaculada Korason De Maria Chapel to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 A.M., followed by interment at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Kalangan and Thank You

The Family



In Celebration of his new life

† Jose Camacho Cabrera

March 05, 1932 – June 15, 2014

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Queenie Wu Cabrera
Children: Margaret Cabrera DelaCruz / Joaquin DelaCruz (Joey / Elaine, Geralyn, Thomas / Jovina)
 †Letitia Cabrera Borja / Jose Borja / Nancy (Kina and Kendra)
 Francisco Cruz Cabrera / Barbara P. Cabrera (Jonathan, Frankie, - Garijo & Gwen)
 Carmen Cruz Cabrera (Carla)
 Letitia Wu Cabrera
Brother: Calistro C. Cabrera
Sisters In Law: Merced V. Cabrera
 Yang Cabrera
 Elvie Barcinas

Family in our hearts:

Vic and Marcy Cepeda
 Sally (Hong) Chen
 Candy (Mei Ying)

Caregivers: Hermie De Joya
 Amor Malanio

He will also be greatly missed by numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, relatives and friends

In His new life, he now joins Rita Cruz Cabrera who has gone before us

Parents: †Vicente Taisague Cabrera and †Soledad Camacho Cabrera
Parents In Law: †Francisco Roberto Cruz and †Soledad Castro Cruz
Parents In Law: †Wu Zu Xiang and †Huang Jin Hong

Daughter: †Letitia May Cabrera Borja

Brothers, Sisters and In Laws:

†Antonio C. and †Maria R. Cabrera
 †Ernesta C. and †Jesus Duenas
 †Leonardo C. and †Ignacia C. Cabrera
 †Rosalia C. and †Francisco Ada / †Manuel Tenorio
 †Juan C. and †Rosa Cabrera
 †Victorino C. Cabrera
 †Remedios C. and †Alejandro Barcinas
 †Consolacion C. and †Jose DLGuerrero

†Josefa Castro Cruz
 †Angel Castro Ctruz

Daily Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am and Holy Rosary is being recited nightly at 7:00pm at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral Services will be held on Monday, June 23, 2014.

His remains lies in state at Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel.

He will be escorted to Kristo Rai Church at 7:30am Responso Service will be at 8:00am and Solemn Rosary will be recited at 8:15am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am and Interment Service will take place at his mausoleum at Santuario PAX Memorial Gardens where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

Queenie Wu Cabrera and Letitia Wu Cabrera
 Children and Family of the late

†Jose Camacho Cabrera and †Rita Cruz Cabrera



Life & Style

Casey Kasem, king of the Top 40 countdown, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Casey Kasem, the internationally famous radio host with the cheerful manner and gentle voice who became the king of the top 40 countdown with a syndicated show that ran for decades, died Sunday. He was 82.

A statement issued by the Kasem family said Kasem died at 3:23 a.m. Sunday, on Father's Day, surrounded by family and friends at a Washington state hospital.

"Even though we know he is in a better place and no longer suffering, we are heartbroken," wrote his daughter Kerri Kasem on Twitter and Facebook from the family. "The world will miss Casey Kasem, an incredible talent and humanitarian; we will miss our dad."

Kasem's "American Top 40" began on July 4, 1970, in Los Angeles. The No. 1 song on his list then was Three Dog Night's cover of Randy Newman's "Mama Told Me Not to Come."

In his signoff, he would tell viewers: "And don't forget: keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars."

Media personality Ryan Seacrest, who took over the countdown from Kasem in 2004, said in a statement that Kasem's death is a loss for radio listeners worldwide. Seacrest said that as a child he'd listen to Kasem's show every weekend "and dream about someday becoming a radio DJ."

"When decades later I took over his AT40 countdown show, it was a surreal moment," Seacrest said. "Casey had a distinctive friendly on-air voice, and he was just as affable and nice if you had the privilege to be in his company. He'll be greatly missed by all of us."

In recent years, Kasem was trapped in a feud between his three adult children and his second wife, former actress Jean Kasem. In 2013, his children filed a legal petition to gain control of his health care, alleging that Kasem was suffering from advanced Parkinson's disease and that his wife was isolating him from friends and family members. Kasem also suffered from Lewy Body Disease, a form of dementia.

A judge in May temporarily stripped his wife of her caretaker role after she moved him from a medical facility in Los Angeles to a friend's home in Washington state. Jean Kasem said she moved her husband to protect his privacy and to consult with doctors. Casey Kasem developed a severe bedsore while in Washington and was in critical condition by the time he

was hospitalized in early June.

It was a sad, startling end for a man whose voice had entertained and informed music lovers worldwide.

After its debut, Kasem's "American Top 40" expanded to hundreds of stations, including Armed Forces Radio, and continued in varying forms—and for varying syndicators—into the 21st century. He stepped down from "American Top 40" in 2004 and retired altogether in 2009, completing his musical journey with Shinedown's "Second Chance."

While many DJs convulsed their listeners with stunts and "morning zoo" snarkiness, Kasem would read "long distance dedications" of songs sent in by readers and introduce countdown records with sympathetic background anecdotes about the singers.

"The idea from the beginning was to do the type of thing on radio that Ed Sullivan did on television, good, honest stories with human interest," he told the Los Angeles Times in 1975.

Kasem's legacy reached well beyond music. His voice was heard in TV cartoons such as "Scooby-Doo" (he was Shaggy) and in numerous commercials.

"They are going to be playing Shaggy and Scooby-Doo for eons and eons," Kasem told The New York Times in 2004. "And they're going to forget Casey Kasem—unless they happen to step on his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. I'll be one of those guys people say 'Who's that?' about. And someone else will say, 'He's just some guy who used to be on the radio.'"

The son of Lebanese immigrants, Kasem was active in speaking out for greater understanding of Arab-Americans—both on political issues involving the Mideast and on arts and media issues.

"Arab-Americans are coming out of the closet," Kasem told The Associated Press in 1990. "They are more outspoken now than ever before. People are beginning to realize who they really are, that they are not the people who yell and scream on their nightly newscast."

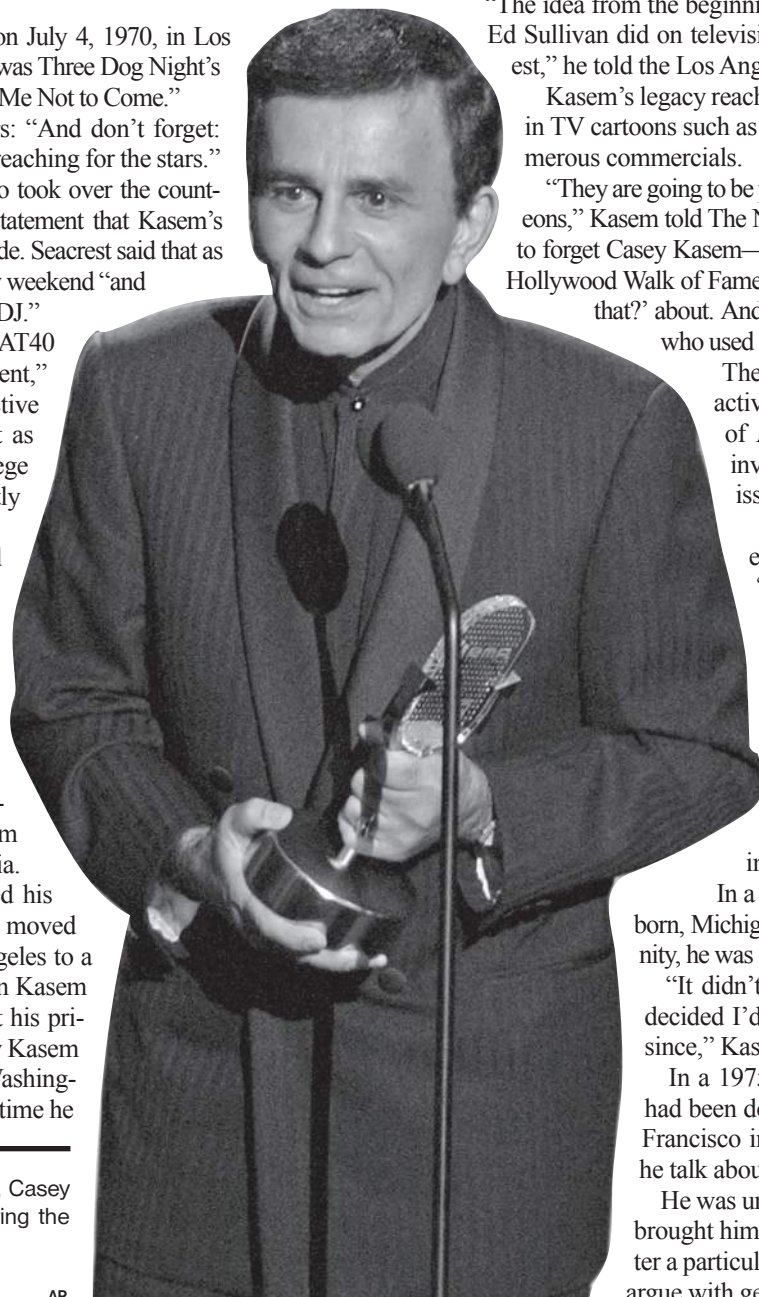
Kasem was born Kemal Amin Kasem in 1932 in Detroit. He began his broadcasting career in the radio club at Detroit's Northwestern High School and was soon a disc jockey on WJBK radio in Detroit, initially calling himself Kemal Kasem.

In a 1997 visit with high school students in Dearborn, Michigan, home to a large Arab-American community, he was asked why he changed his name to Casey.

"It didn't sound like a deejay; it wasn't hip. So we decided I'd be 'Casey at the Mike'—and I have been since," Kasem said.

In a 1975 Los Angeles Times interview, he said he had been doing "a regular screaming DJ show" in San Francisco in the early 1960s when his boss suggested he talk about the records instead.

He was unconvinced, since his screaming routine had brought him top ratings. But he said he had learned "after a particularly unpleasant situation in Buffalo never to argue with general managers."



In this Monday, Oct. 27, 2003 file photo, Casey Kasem accepts a radio icon award during the Radio Music Awards in Las Vegas.

AP

Jane Lynch to cheer on Special Olympic athletes

NEW YORK (AP)—The Cheerios coach from "Glee" is leading the rally for Special Olympians.

Jane Lynch will attend the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics USA Games on Sunday—possibly with her signature tracksuit and bullhorn—whipping up the expected crowd of 18,000 at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

Her character Sue Sylvester on Fox's "Glee" is a cheerleading coach who encourages a girl with Down syndrome to participate with the Cheerios cheer squad. Sylvester's sister and baby on the show also have Down syndrome.

"I've gotten to know people who have developmental disabilities and their wonderful families since being on 'Glee,'" said Lynch of actress Lauren Potter, who has Down syndrome, and plays her closest friend on the show. "The folks in the community of support for people with de-

velopmental disabilities are so awesome and heart-centered.

"Lauren is a huge bright light. She's very focused and professional and yet loves to have fun and goof around."

Six Special Olympians started the torch run this week in Manhattan, and the "Flame of Hope" will arrive for the lighting of the cauldron at the opening ceremony on Sunday, which is Father's Day.

"All the fathers at the Prudential Center will have a tear in their eye," said T.J. Nelligan, official chairman of the Special Olympics USA Games. "You really don't see the disability. You see what they can do and can achieve."

The opening ceremony, with a theme of inclusion, will be hosted by model and actress Brooklyn Decker and Philadelphia 76ers guard Michael Carter Williams. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, the honorary chair of

the event, is expected to attend.

Some 3,500 athletes from 50 states are arriving in New Jersey for the weeklong event.

They'll participate in 16 sports, competing at Princeton and other college venues. New sports of triathlon and baseball have been added to the program, and a youth summit will highlight acceptance and inclusion at schools.

Nelligan, whose 24-year-old son Sean has intellectual and developmental disabilities, helped convince corporations to pledge \$20 million and land the games in 2011. The numerous sponsors increased the budget from \$8 million at past games.

Sean seemed fine until he started having seizures at 6 months and didn't talk. He's been involved in the Special Olympics New Jersey Games for 13 years, playing basketball, soccer and bocce. He holds a job at his

dad's restaurant and is "the happiest person you've ever met."

"He gets to go to the games in his home state with all his friends," Nelligan said. "Twelve years ago, he didn't have any friends and went to a special needs school. He's built so much confidence."

About 15 percent of children ages 3 through 17 have a developmental disability in the U.S., according to research quoted by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Those disabilities can involve difficulties in learning, language or behavior. The international Special Olympics were founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, whose sister Rosemary had an intellectual disability.

The Special Olympics USA Games is an offshoot for American athletes that began in 2006. The international version will be held in Los Angeles in 2015.

Ten things you might not know about Casey Kasem

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Counting down the top 10 things you might not know about radio personality Casey Kasem, the founding voice of "American Top 40," who died Sunday:

Beginning in 1969, Kasem voiced the character Shaggy for the animated series "Scooby-Doo: Where Are You!" He continued to voice the long-haired hippie in TV, film and video games until 2009. He also gave voice to characters on "Sesame Street" and the 1986 "Transformers" movie, along with voicing Robin on "Super Friends."

Kasem's work on radio commercials was highly lucrative—and not nearly as easy as it might have seemed for someone so smooth on the air. "The greatest compliment that anyone can pay me is that after I say something, they remember it," he once said. "I'll go over a piece of copy until I've gotten the essence of what the writer had in mind, every nuance."

In addition to his radio show and voice work, Kasem was the co-host of a teen dance show on Los Angeles television during the 1960s called "Shebang." He also had a minor hit single during that time, "Letter From Elaine," and appeared in a few low-budget movies and some network TV series, including "Hawaii Five-O" and "Ironside."

While Kasem seldom appeared onscreen, his second wife, Jean Kasem, was a semi-regular in the sitcom "Cheers" as Loretta Tortelli and a regular in a short-lived spinoff, "The Tortellis."

Kasem gained attention in the 1990s when he blew up because of a staff error on his "American Top 40" show and his taped remarks, swearing and all, made their way into cyberspace. He told The New York Times in 2004 that he didn't know it had been made public until years later.

Kasem was a vegetarian and an activist against factory farming.

An Arab-American activist, Kasem called for a fairer balance between heroes and villains in the 1994 Disney Aladdin sequel, "The Return of Jafar." But he added, "We're not out there just to be so picky that we become a pain in the neck. We're there to do what we can to call attention to the sensitivity of not only Arab-Americans, but to any ethnic group."

As host of "American Top 40," Kasem introduced a romantic segment called Long Distance Dedications. Listeners would send in their dedications, and Kasem would pick a few heartfelt messages to read each week on the air, playing the love song that went with it. The first Long Distance Dedication Kasem played was Neil Diamond's "Desiree" on Aug. 26, 1978.

When "American Top 40" premiered on July 4, 1970, the top five songs were: Three Dog Night's "Mama Told Me (Not to Come)," The Jackson Five's "The Love You Save," The Temptations' "Ball of Confusion (That's What the World is Today)," "Ride Captain Ride" by Blues Image and Freda Payne's "Band of Gold." When Kasem retired from "AT40" at the end of 2003, the top five tracks were: "Hey Ya" by Outkast, "Here Without You" by 3 Doors Down, "Suga Suga" by Baby Bash, "Perfect" by Simple Plan and Nickelback's "Someday."

"Keep your feet on the ground, and keep reaching for the stars."—The radio signoff Kasem used throughout his five-decade career.

Morgan showing signs of improvement

NEW BRUNSWICK, New Jersey (AP)—Actor and comedian Tracy Morgan is showing signs of improvement following a highway crash that badly injured him and killed one of his friends, his spokesman said Thursday.

Morgan, a former star of "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock," remained hospitalized in critical but stable condition



Morgan

on Thursday but his medical team is "optimistic that his recovery is progressing," spokesman Lewis Kay said.

"Today was a better day," Kay said.

Morgan's fiancée remained by his side and was relaying to him everyone's prayers and good wishes, Kay said.

Morgan, 45, suffered broken ribs and a broken leg in

the Saturday morning crash on the New Jersey Turnpike. The crash killed fellow comedian James McNair and seriously injured two other people in Morgan's limo bus.

Prosecutors say Wal-Mart driver Kevin Roper's truck hit Morgan's limo. The Jonesboro, Georgia, resident has pleaded not guilty to death by auto and assault by auto charges.

A criminal complaint alleges Roper hadn't slept for more than 24 hours before the acci-

dent when he swerved to avoid slowed traffic on the turnpike and plowed into Morgan's limo.

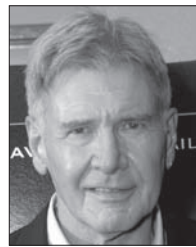
Wal-Mart Stores Inc., based in Bentonville, Arkansas, has not explained what Roper's

driving route was. It has said it believes he was in compliance with federal safety regulations.

Harrison Ford injures ankle on set of 'Star Wars'

NEW YORK (AP)—Harrison Ford was hospitalized after being injured on the set of "Star Wars: Episode VII."

Disney said the 71-year-old actor was being treated for an ankle injury that happened during filming Thursday. The "Star Wars" sequel is being



Ford

filmed at Pinewood Studios outside of London.

The accident wasn't a stunt sequence, but involved the door of a spacecraft from the film. A local police report on the incident cited a "garage door" injuring a 71 year-old man, but

didn't name Ford.

The Millennium Falcon, which Ford's Han Solo piloted in the first "Star Wars" trilogy, was recently disclosed as part of "Episode VII."

Ford is one of several original "Star Wars" stars returning to the J.J. Abrams-directed sequel. He's joined by fellow alums Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher and Peter Mayhew.

'Jump Street' beats 'Dragon' in box-office battle

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In a summertime battle of sequels, a pair of kooky cops beat out flying dragons for the top spot at the North American box office, but the dragons soared internationally.

The R-rated comedy "22 Jump Street" debuted in first place domestically with \$60 million, followed by "How to Train Your Dragon 2" which opened with \$50 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Internationally, though, "Dragon" dwarfed "Jump Street" with \$24.8 million to \$6.9 million, respectively.

Still, it's an impressive showing for two sequels. The original versions of "Dragon" and "Jump Street" were springtime releases, and their strong performances then led studios to offer sequels during the hot movie-going months of summer.

"When a studio has ultimate confidence in something, they will put it in that gladiator arena that is the summer season," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "A sequel in the summer is like graduating."

It's rare for two films to open with such big numbers on the same weekend, too,

1. **"22 Jump Street," \$60 million** (\$6.9 million international).
2. **"How to Train Your Dragon 2," \$50 million** (\$24.8 million international).
3. **"Maleficent," \$19 million** (\$37.2 million international).
4. **"Edge of Tomorrow," \$16.2 million** (\$37.4 million international).
5. **"The Fault in Our Stars," \$15.7 million** (\$16.4 million international).
6. **"X-Men: Days of Future Past," \$9.5 million** (\$18.2 million international).
7. **"Godzilla," \$3.2 million** (\$38 million international).
8. **"A Million Ways to Die in the West," \$3.1 million** (\$4.2 million international).
9. **"Neighbors," \$2.5 million** (\$2 million international).
10. **"Chef," \$2.3 million** (\$150,000 international).

he said. Dergarabedian notes it has happened three times before: last year when "Monsters University" opened against "World War Z"; in 2012 when "Madagascar 3"

opened against "Prometheus"; and in 2008 when "WALL-E" opened against "Wanted."

Sony's "Jump Street" stars Channing Tatum and Jonah Hill as bumbling undercover officers who pose as college students to bust a campus drug dealer. Hill also lends a voice to the animated "Dragon," the Fox feature that follows Hiccup and his winged dragon Toothless on an adventure where they discover hundreds of wild dragons and a mysterious dragon master.

"To have two movies that opened to 50-plus, that's really good," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for Fox, which boasts three films in the top 10. "To have a PG-rated, animated film open against a hard R comedy, you gotta love that."

Disney's "Maleficent" claimed third place in its third week of release. Warner Bros.' Tom Cruise action romp "Edge of Tomorrow" took the fourth spot, followed by last week's top film, Fox's teen tear-jerker "The Fault in Our Stars."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released on Monday.

New James Frey book includes \$500,000 prize

NEW YORK (AP)—A new young-adult trilogy to launch in October with "Endgame: The Calling" is at the center of an interactive project that includes a puzzle that leads to a key that leads—at least for one lucky person—to \$500,000 in gold coins.

The subsequent two books

will have progressively larger payouts, and all will require the use of a website that has not yet gone live, publisher HarperCollins said.

The project also includes YouTube videos, gaming designed by Google's Niantic Labs and social media. Twentieth Century Fox

has acquired film rights.

James Frey, the author of the discredited memoir "A Million Little Pieces," and his production company, Full Fathom Five, will turn out nine novellas in addition to the three books. The first book is co-authored by Nils Johnson-Shelton.

Neil Patrick Harris leaving 'Hedwig' on Broadway



AP

This file image released by Boneau/Bryan-Brown shows Neil Patrick Harris in a scene from "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," at the Belasco Theatre in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Patrick Harris will leave hit Broadway show "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and Andrew Rannells will slip into his old wigs.

Producers of the Tony Award-winning show said Thursday that Harris will play his final performance at the Belasco Theatre on Aug. 17. Rannells will take over Aug. 20.

Rannells earned a Tony nomination as an ever-smiling Mormon missionary in the debut cast of "The Book of Mormon" and also plays Elijah on "Girls."

Now he'll play a German male transsexual rock singer in a tale of obsession, glam rock and a botched sex-change operation. Harris earned his Tony win Sunday for the blistering role.

Men posting profiles on dating sites could use a few tips

DEAR ABBY: May I sit in your chair and give some advice today? It's aimed at men who place ads on dating sites and then wonder why they can't meet "quality" women.

I'm an educated, decent-looking, middle-aged widow who has dated quite a lot through such ads and local social groups. Yes, it can be a jungle out there, but the Internet is a wonderful tool for bringing people together.

I live in a small town, and the pool of eligible men is smaller here than in metropolitan areas. That said, there are few profiles that attract my attention and that of my divorced/widowed friends.

Gentlemen, some pointers:

1. Smile! A dour expression is unpleasant.
2. We may want to see you with your shirt off after we get to know you, but it's not the most appealing or refined pose for a first look.
3. Be realistic. If you are Joe Average, we Jane Averages would enjoy meeting you. Are you REALLY going to hold out for a model who is a decade or so younger than you?
4. Be kind to the English language. You don't have to be a genius, but it would be nice to know you can competently communicate in writing.
5. Consider a shave. Some women like men with facial hair; the majority of the ones I know do not. About 75 percent of men over 50 have a mustache, beard or both. What are you hiding under there?

6. If you're married and miserable, for goodness sake, go for marriage counseling or get a divorce. But please don't deceive women who want to meet a nice guy to share life with.

In case you think I'm being too harsh, we gals welcome any suggestions from men who scroll through those female profiles looking for love.

SURFING IN PETERSBURG, ILL.

DEAR SURFING: I'm printing your letter, and I'm sure the reaction will be interesting. The No. 1 complaint I've heard about Internet dating has to do with misrepresentation on both sides of the gender divide.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 83-year-old mother wants a tattoo! She loves classical music and has decided to have a musical note tattooed on her shoulder. Should I institutionalize her, or chauffeur her to the local tattoo parlor?

SHOCKED IN GARDEN GROVE, CALIF.

DEAR SHOCKED: At 83, your mother is old enough to make this decision without your blessing. She also appears to be young enough at heart that she may not need the ride.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am being divorced and my oldest son is being married. My soon-to-be-ex-wife does not want my girl-

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



friend to attend. This has put a great deal of pressure on my son and his fiancée.

I left my wife for this woman. I love her and would like her to attend with me. What is proper?

DANNY IN DELAWARE

DEAR DANNY: Because your divorce is not yet final, leave your girlfriend at home. Her absence would be the most thoughtful and considerate gift you could give your son, his bride and your almost-former wife.

■ ■ ■

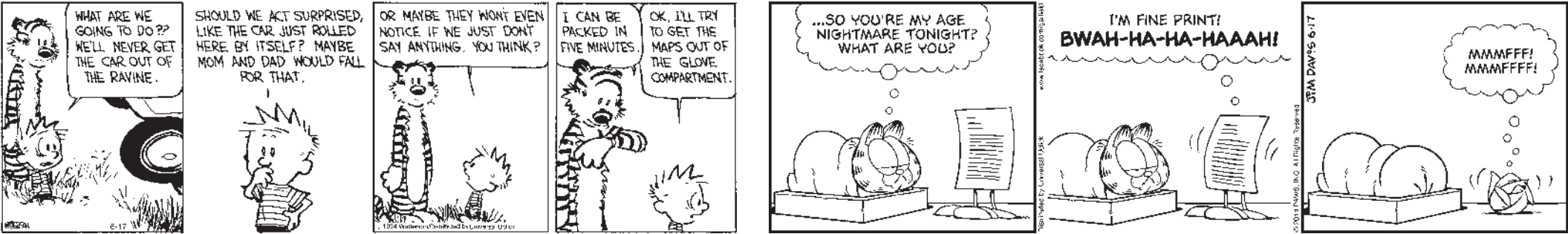
To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson Garfield®

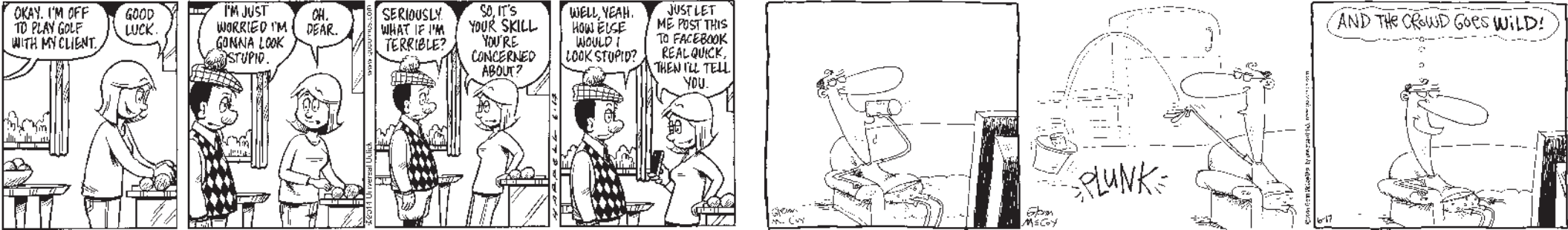
By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Cupola

5 To and —

8 Rope fiber

12 Furniture store chain

13 Newsman

14 Elliptical

15 "Million Dollar Baby" director

17 Peru's capital

18 Cobb and Pennington

19 Easter entree

20 Back street

21 Wager

22 "Little Women" woman

23 Rose protector

26 Chest components

30 "— Only Just Begun"

31 Crooner Damone

32 Margarine

33 Clementine's cousins

35 Knuckle or knee

36 Monkey suit

37 Deity

38 UPS color

41 Lingerie item

42 Omega preceder

45 Corporate symbol

46 HBO Old West series

48 Norway's capital

49 Author Fleming

50 Pit

51 Garden intruder

52 Finish

53 Bygone automaker

DOWN

1 Regimen

2 Fine

3 Disarray

4 Dine

5 Exhibit buoyancy

6 Leeway

7 North

8 Tinsel-town

9 Satanic

10 Broad-way title

11 Indulge in sport

16 Something to say to a bartender?

20 Doctors' org.

21 City east of Oakland, Calif.

22 Curved path

23 Pair

24 That girl

25 Eggs

26 Insult

27 Yalie

28 Stimp's pal

29 Drunkard

31 Irritate

34 Pistol

35 "Grapes of Wrath" surname

37 Majestic

38 Huff and puff

39 Got up

40 Lecherous look

41 Rowan Atkinson portrayal

42 Combine

43 Auctioneer's call

44 Mid-month date

46 Conk out

47 Personal question?

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 6-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Venus Williams, 34; Will Forte, 44; Greg Kinnear, 51; Barry Manilow, 71.

Happy Birthday: Share your knowledge with people who have something to offer in return. This is a give-and-take year that will lead to a strong alliance with your peers. Getting involved in unique projects that will improve your community or a cause you believe in will also lead to greater personal opportunities. Communication will be key to getting what you want. Your numbers are 2, 9, 22, 26, 32, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be creative with your money but don't be too generous. Good fortune will come from budgeting and investing wisely. Don't allow anyone or anything to pressure you into making a snap decision. Assistance will be provided if you ask. ★★☆☆

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't feel the need to make a donation. You have to look out for yourself before you offer charity. Friends and relatives will offer good advice if someone is pressuring you to make a decision. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take the initiative and move into the fast lane. You can accomplish much if you let your imagination and intuition lead the way. Don't be too eager to part with your money. Check out the fine print before you sign a contract. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Venture in a direction you've never been before. Whether it's surfing the net to find information regarding an exotic destination or exploring different philosophies that interest you, the end result will be a chance to try something exciting. ★★☆☆

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Legal, contractual and financial matters will all need to be dealt with carefully. Don't allow your emotions to come between you and the right decision. A real estate or domestic matter will turn in your favor if you are reasonable. ★★☆☆

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Do whatever it takes to stay in the loop regarding matters at work or within your industry. Keeping up will be half the battle when it comes to advancement; the other half will be your ability to get along with your peers. ★★☆☆

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): New beginnings are heading in your direction and will give rise to all sorts of interesting encounters, both personally and professionally. What you learn through conversations and engaging in events that are geared toward using your skills more diversely will pay off. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Go over your financial papers and revisit any changes you want to make to your home, lifestyle or residence. An intuitive connection you have with someone special will help you make the right decision regarding a joint venture. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Listen carefully to a proposal. You have a chance to excel if you ask questions and make a counteroffer. Show your interest as well as your ability to wheel and deal. A positive change at home will add to your entertainment. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Uncertainty will prevail. Don't feel the need to make a decision. Problems while en route or dealing with someone from a different background can be expected. Focus on home, family and self-improvement. Sticking to what you know and do best is favored. ★★☆☆

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Money matters can be dealt with and work-related changes made. Starting a small business or sending out your resume or going for an interview will bring good results. Networking will lead to new opportunities. Contracts can be signed. ★★☆☆

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Concentrate on what's important to you. Look over past agreements and recognize why or where something went wrong. Learning from your mistakes will bring you closer to success. An enticing offer will have strings attached. Think before you act. ★★☆☆

Birthday Baby: You are forward thinking, inquisitive and productive. You are giving and unpredictable.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

6/17

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PLANNING A MOTORHOME VACATION Solution: 11 letters

P C I S U M B A T H S R U O T
W A T E R O T N S P T C A S H
P H G S S O E I I E S I E T Y
L I T K D R N R G Y N M O O R
A L M R N D T D L V A L G V U
N L I A E E U I E G C S H E X
O I L P I B M R G S K S E T U
I T E T R A T N E U S E V O L
S I T G F E I I N N U N A P F
I N O N R L V E E S M R W O F
V E H I E O I T R C M E O S O
E R C V M C S U A R E D R E E
L A A I A A I O T E R L C E M
E R E R P T T R O E H I I I I
T Y B D S E A T R N N W M G T

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Bath, Beach, Bedroom, Berth, Budget, Cloth, Driving, Family, Food, Friends, Games, Gas, Generator, Heat, Hill, Hotel, Inverter, Itinerary, Locate, Luxury, Maps, Microwave, Mile, Movies, Music, Pack, Parks, Plan, Rent, Route, Seat, Snacks, Stovetop, Summer, Sunscreen, Television, Tent, Time Off, Tours, Traveling, Trips, Visit, Water, Wilderness
Yesterday's Answer: Meadows
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 36, 37 or 38, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Music Piano Teacher. Bachelor's Degree in Music. Email resume to littlehandsmusic@yahoo.com

1 Cook (Korean cuisine): \$5.55/hr. At least 3 years' experience in Korean cuisine required. Email resume to kl@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Butcher: \$5.55/hr. High school diploma and at least 3 years' experience required. Email resume to dolim@hanmisaipan.com.

6 House Workers \$5.55/Hour. Mail resume to MTO Maintenance at P.O. Box 504053, Saipan MP 96950

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND

American gentleman wants to meet a nice lady. Enjoy happy times with a nice man. Call to meet 287-5522

BUYING USED CARS

Looking for used cars 2008 & up, Sienna and 4Runner. Good condition. We pay CASH! 287-7676

Thumb Massage
Job Vacancy Announcement
3 Masseuses

Salary \$5.55
One (1) year experience.

Please mail resume to PMB 155 Box 10003, Saipan, MP 96950 or call 285-8018

GPPC, INC. Job opening:

1 –Welder Rate: \$5.60 to \$6.50 per hour
Must be a h/s grad w/min of 5 yrs exp as a Welder. Must be knowledgeable on how to perform SMAW, GMAW, GTAW welding process, w/ knowledge on how to use plasma cutting machine, oxy acethelene cutting, hand soldering or brazing equipment to weld or join metal components or to fill holes, indentations or seams of fabricated metal products. Must be able to work flexible time.

All positions close on June 20, 2014. Applications are available at GPPC Inc office located at As Perdido, Saipan. A copy of valid Police Clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete application will NOT be accepted. Skills testing may be required. GPPC, INC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

3A'S POLYSHINE
Home of 'V-KOOL'
is looking for

UPHOLSTERERS: 1 (New) Position (SAIPAN & GUAM)

- Considerable knowledge of the practices and methods of upholstery works, and the use of machinery and equipment for upholstery.
- Ability to make upholstery and other repairs to furniture and interior of vehicles.
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Kaymer closes out wire-to-wire US Open win



PINEHURST, N.C.

(AP)—The U.S. Open trophy Martin Kaymer won Sunday was all he needed to prove he was anything but a one-hit wonder in the majors, and that the two years he spent trying to build a complete game were worth all the doubt that followed him.

As he set it down on the table, Kaymer rubbed off a tiny smudge on the gleaming silver, which was only fitting.

Over four days at Pinehurst No. 2, he dusted the field in a performance that ranks among the best.

Kaymer set the 36-hole scoring record by opening with a pair of 65s. He never let anyone closer than four shots over the final 48 holes. Equipped with a five-shot lead, he was the only player from the last eight groups to break par.

Welcome back, Martin.

"You want to win majors in your career, but if you can win one more, it means so much more," Kaymer said after closing with a 1-under 69 for an eight-shot victory over Rickie Fowler and two-time heart transplant recipient Erik Compton.

"Some people, especially when I went through that low, called me a one-hit wonder and those things. So it's quite nice proof, even though I don't feel like I need to prove a lot to people. But somehow, it's quite satisfying to have under your belt."

The 29-year-old German is a forgotten star no more.

Kaymer returned to the elite in golf by turning the toughest test in golf into a runaway at Pinehurst No. 2, becoming only the seventh player to go wire-to-wire in the 114 years of the U.S. Open. Only three players finished the championship under par.



Martin Kaymer, of Germany, poses with the trophy after winning the U.S. Open golf tournament in Pinehurst, N.C., Sunday, June 15, 2014.

One guy appeared to be playing a different tournament.

"No one was catching Kaymer this week," Compton said. "I was playing for second. I think we all were playing for second."

Only a late bogey kept Kaymer from joining Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy as the only players to finish a U.S. Open in double digits under par. He let his putter fall to the ground when his 15-foot par putt on the 18th hole dropped into the center of the cup, like so many others had this week.

Kaymer finished at 9-under 271.

His last two wins are the U.S. Open and The Players Championship, with the strongest and deepest field in golf. He never trailed after any round in both of them.

"Martin was playing his own tournament," Fowler said after recovering from a double bogey on the fourth hole to close with a 72.

This U.S. Open really ended Friday.

No one had ever opened 65-65 in the U.S. Open, which broke the 36-hole record that McIlroy set three years ago

rain-softened Congressional. When it could have gotten away from Kaymer in the third round, he stayed strong for a stabilizing 72.

"He kind of killed the event in the first two days," Henrik Stenson said. "He went out and shot two 65s and left everyone in the dust."

He did it again in the final round.

Knowing the gallery was against him—the loud cheers for Fowler, clapping when Kaymer's ball bounded over the back of the second green—he holed a 10-foot par putt, and then drilled a driv-

er on the 313-yard third hole onto the green to set up a two-putt birdie.

Fowler, in the final group of a major for the first time, fell back quickly on the fourth hole. He sent his third shot from a sandy path over the green and into some pine trees and had to make a 25-foot putt just to escape with double bogey.

"It was probably the toughest day that I played golf today, especially the first nine," Kaymer said. "Because if you have two or three Americans chasing you, playing in America, it's never easy being a foreigner. But I said at the ceremony as well that the fans were very fair. But it was a tough one. If you lead by five shots, it's not easy."

"A lot of people think, 'Well, you have a little bit of a cushion.' But if you approach that day in that way, with that attitude, it can be gone so quickly."

No chance on this day.

Compton was the only player who really put up a fight. His birdie on No. 8 got him within four shots. Three bogeys in a five-hole stretch on the back nine did him in. Even so, Compton received a standing ovation walking the 18th green. He somehow scratched out a par from 50 yards away against the lip of a bunker.

It wasn't the Hollywood script he wanted, but it wasn't a bad consolation - his first trip to the Masters next April.

"I've never gotten this far along in my story," Compton said. "I'm thrilled."

Kaymer joined Seve Ballesteros, Ernie Els, Woods and McIlroy as the only players to win two majors and be No. 1 in the world before turning 30 since the world ranking began in 1986. He is the fourth European in the last five years to win the U.S. Open, after Europeans had gone 40 years without this title.

Argentina defeats Bosnia 2-1 in a tale of 2 halves



RIO DE JANEIRO

(AP)—Lionel Messi and Sergio Aguero are dangerous scorers, but neither was getting many touches in the first half of Argentina's World Cup opener against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

With his team leading 1-0 at halftime because of an own goal, coach Alejandro Sabella ditched his cautious lineup, bringing Gonzalo Higuain off the bench to play up front with Aguero and Messi. Suddenly, the man many consider the world's best player finally looked like a star on the game's biggest stage.

"The first half was very difficult," said Messi, the Barcelona star who has usually played better for his club than he has for his country. "I was alone and Kun (forward Sergio Aguero) was alone just like I was."

After Sead Kolasinovic's own goal in the third minute, Bosnia—playing in its first World Cup—eased into the match and was the equal of the two-time World Cup champions.

"The early lineup took its toll on us," Sabella acknowledged. "It was an even game until we got going in the second half."

To start the half, Sabella put in Higuain for midfielder Maxi Rodriguez, and midfielder Fernando Gago replaced defender Hugo Campagnaro. That gave Messi support, allowing

him to step back and find more space to roam and attack on the dribble.

"When Higuain came in the team lifted itself and began to create chances," Sabella said. "But we do have a few things to improve."

Sabella said he wanted to start conservatively out of respect for the skilled and tall Bosnians.

"There are always details you have to fine-tune as the match goes on," he said. "Taking both halves into consideration, I think we were OK. It was the first game, and those are difficult. But we must improve. At the beginning we had few attacking chances and hardly threatened the goal. So we made the changes."

The adjustments paid off almost immediately.

Messi started to make dangerous runs and struck in the 65th minute. Using a quick give-and-go with Higuain to get space, he cut left, avoided a defender's foot without losing balance and sent a low, left-footed shot off the post behind keeper Asmir Begovic.

The goal—only the second for Messi in three World Cups—gave Argentines packing the famed Maracana stadium a chance to celebrate—and relax. The Argentine fans were always loud, but at times shouted down by Brazilians cheering against their archrival—and for Bosnia.

"There were nerves and anxiety, so it was good to start with three points

and a victory," Messi said. "It wasn't perfect, but we got the result."

Sabella was asked to rate his team on a 10-point scale.

"I would give it a six and say we have to improve," said. "And some of that is in my hands."

Bosnia coach Safet Susic also was quizzed about his tactics. He left dangerous forward Vedad Ibisevic on the bench until Messi scored. Ibisevic came on four minutes later and scored Bosnia's lone goal in the 85th.

"I don't regret what I did," Susic said. "I told him (Ibisevic) that playing against Argentina I cannot play two attackers. And besides in the mid-field we have very offensive-minded players. Playing two strikers (from the start) would have been very risky."

Argentina plays Iran on Saturday in Group F, and Bosnia plays Nigeria.

The match was the first World Cup game at the Maracana since Brazil lost to Uruguay in the final round of the 1950 tournament, which remains a deep wound in Brazilian football history. The July 13 World Cup final will also be held at the Maracana.

Switzerland 2, Ecuador 1

In Brasilia, Brazil, Switzerland grabbed a winner with virtually the final kick to earn a 2-1 victory over Ecuador in the World Cup on Sunday, extending a run of come-from-behind

wins that are becoming a theme of the tournament.

With just seconds left in the third and final minute of stoppage time, substitute Haris Seferovic finished off a length-of-the-field move by slamming home a close-range shot. After wild Swiss celebrations, Ecuador's shell-shocked players barely had time to restart before the final whistle was blown.

It was the fifth time in the first nine matches in Brazil that a team had come from a goal down to win—but this was the most dramatic of all the comebacks.

"It was a dream to be able to win this match in the very last minute like this," Switzerland coach Ottmar Hitzfeld said through a translator. "It was emotional—it will be important for the morale of the team."

Sluggish in the first half-hour, Switzerland—highly fancied after rising to No. 6 in the FIFA rankings—conceded a sloppy goal to go behind when Enner Valencia rose unmarked in the 22nd minute and headed in a free kick from six yards (meters).

Ecuador's defending for the 48th-minute equalizer was just as abject, however, with Admir Mehmedi finding space from even closer in to nod in a corner.

France 3, Honduras 0

In Porto Alegre, Brazil, Karim Ben-

zema scored twice and created a third that was confirmed by goal-line technology as France eased into its World Cup campaign with a 3-0 victory over Honduras on Sunday

The convincing victory—albeit against a 10-man team for more than 45 minutes—was in stark contrast to the team's performances in South Africa four years ago, when the highly paid squad failed to win a single match and was sent home in a disgrace after going on a training strike.

It now tops group E and, with Switzerland and Ecuador left to play, stands a good chance of staying there.

"Winning 3-0 at a World Cup isn't easy," France coach Didier Deschamps said. "(The players should) savor the moment, there's nothing more wonderful. We're going to recover and then go again in five days' time."

Benzema's first goal came from the penalty spot just before halftime after Wilson Palacios was sent off with his second yellow card for charging into the back of Paul Pogba. The Real Madrid striker calmly slotted the ball to the left of Noel Valladares to give the French a deserved lead going into the break.

"It's my first World Cup and I think we're all satisfied with the result," Benzema said. "It was important to win this match."

With Honduras down to 10 men, France didn't take long to double the score, thanks again to the Real Madrid striker and the first decisive use of goal line technology in a World Cup.

Adams homers again as Cardinals beat Nats, 5-2

ST. LOUIS (AP)— Matt Adams homered for the third straight game, all with his father in attendance, as the St. Louis Cardinals beat Washington 5-2 Sunday for a sweep.

Adams gave St. Louis a 2-0 lead in the second inning with a two-run shot on an 0-2 pitch, his sixth homer of the season. His dad, Jamie, had been visiting from Pennsylvania on Father’s Day weekend.

Adams has homered in all three games since coming off the disabled list with a torn calf muscle.

Jaime Garcia (3-0) pitched seven innings, allowing five hits and a run. Trevor Rosenthal got the final out for his 20th save.

Doug Fister (5-2) had his five-start winning streak snapped.



St. Louis Cardinals second baseman Kolten Wong catches a line drive off the bat of Washington Natioals’ Scott Hairston in the fourth inning of a baseball game on Sunday, June 15, 2014, at Busch Stadium in St. Louis.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, J.A. Happ pitched into the seventh inning and Dioner Navarro had three hits and two RBIs as the Toronto Blue Jays beat Baltimore for a four-game split.

Edwin Encarnacion also had three hits for the Blue Jays, who had totaled 15 runs in losing six of their previous eight games.

The AL East leaders take a 4 1/2-game lead into a three-game series at Yankee Stadium starting Tuesday night. Ace Masahiro Tanaka starts the opener for New York.

Adam Jones homered and Nelson Cruz had three hits and his major league-leading 56th RBI for the Orioles.

Happ (6-3) gave up one run, seven hits and no walks in six-plus innings. Casey Janssen got four outs for his 12th save.

Chris Tillman (5-4) is 0-4 with a 2.78 ERA at home and 5-0 with a 6.33 ERA on the road.

Rockies 8, Giants 7

In San Francisco, Justin Morneau hit a two-run double in the eighth inning as Colorado came back to sweep a three-game series from San Francisco.

Morneau’s pinch hit highlighted a four-run rally for the Rockies, who scored in the ninth in each of the first two games of the series for the win.

Troy Tulowitzki had three hits, including a home run, and drove in two runs for the Rockies, who won extended their season-high winning streak to five.

The Giants have lost six of seven.

Matt Belisle (2-2) pitched an inning for Colorado. Juan Gutierrez (1-2) got the loss.

Athletics 10, Yankees 5

In Oakland, California, Derek Norris and Coco Crisp each hit a three-run homer, powering Jesse Chavez and Oakland to the win.

Carlos Beltran hit his first home run for the Yankees since coming off the disabled list. But the All-Star veteran also was called out on a strange play in the eighth inning when he seemed to lose track of the outs and wandered away from first base.

Norris homered in the first and Crisp connected in the second off Vidal Nuno (1-3).

The A’s had been held to one run or fewer in four of their previous nine games before taking a 10-0 lead in four innings. Chavez (6-4) pitched six innings of one-run ball.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 3

In Los Angeles, Paul Goldschmidt and Miguel Montero homered to help Bronson Arroyo win his third straight

start as Arizona averted a three-game series sweep.

Arroyo (7-4) allowed a run and five hits in five innings.

Los Angeles starter Josh Beckett (4-4) gave up three earned runs in seven innings.

Goldschmidt hit his 15th homer in the first inning and Montero hit his 10th in the ninth, a two-run shot off Chris Perez.

Mariners 5, Rangers 1

In Seattle, Kyle Seager had four hits and three RBIs as Seattle stopped a five-game losing streak.

Hisashi Iwakuma (5-3) pitched eight sharp innings, allowing Brad Snyder’s first career homer. Charlie Furbush then got three outs to complete the six-hitter.

Iwakuma improved to 2-1 with a 1.61 ERA in three starts this month. The right-hander struck out six and walked none in his fourth start this season of eight innings.

Nick Martinez (1-4) allowed nine hits and walked one, but held the Mariners to two runs in six innings.

Tigers 4, Twins 3

In Detroit, right fielder Oswaldo Arcia’s error led to J.D. Martinez’s sacrifice fly in the ninth inning, lifting the Detroit Tigers over Minnesota.

Torii Hunter led off the ninth with a single off Casey Fein (3-3). One out later, Victor Martinez hit a fly ball that Arcia dropped at the wall, setting up the winning fly.

Earlier in the game, Arcia lost a routine fly in the sun with two outs and a runner on third for a run.

Joe Nathan (3-2) pitched a scoreless ninth.

Reds 13, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, Billy Hamilton led off the game with a home run, Brandon Phillips added a two-run shot in the first inning and Todd Frazier later hit his team-high 15th homer as the Cincinnati Reds beat Milwaukee.

Hamilton connected for the second straight day, off homer-prone Marco Estrada (5-4).

Ryan Ludwick had three doubles and got four of the Reds’ season-high 19 hits. Frazier also doubled and drove in four runs.

Estrada’s infield single with the bases loaded in the fourth off Mike Leake (4-6) helped tie the game at 3.

Frazier’s two-run shot the next inning put Cincinnati up for good. Estrada has given up a major league-high 23 homers in just 84 innings, with 18 coming since May 1.

Cubs 3, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Travis Wood pitched hitless ball into the sixth inning as the Chicago Cubs beat Philadelphia to win a road series for the first time this season.

Anthony Rizzo hit his 14th home run as the Cubs took two of three at Citizens Bank Park.

The Cubs last-place had been 0-9-3 in sets away from Wrigley Field. This was the Cubs’ first series win in Philadelphia since April 2001.

Wood (7-5) didn’t allow a hit until Ben Revere’s one-out single in the sixth. He gave up three hits in eight innings and Neil Ramirez got his third save.

A.J. Burnett (4-6) moved past Hall of Famer Eddie Plank into 50th place on the career strikeout list.

Marlins 3, Pirates 2, 10 innings

In Miami, Casey McGehee tied the game in the eighth inning with a two-out, two-run double, then drove home the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th as the Miami Marlins prevented a sweep by Pittsburgh.

Vance Worley pitched seven innings in his season debut for the Pirates and departed with a 2-0 lead. Reliever Tony Watson had thrown 21 1-3 consecutive scoreless innings before McGehee doubled.

A.J. Ramos (4-0) loaded the bases with none out in the 10th but escaped.

The Pirates had won four in row before Miami won it against Jared Hughes (3-2).

Indians 3, Red Sox 2, 11 innings

In Boston, Nick Swisher led off the 11th inning with a homer as the Cleveland Indians beat Boston for a four-game split.

It was Swisher’s fourth homer of the season and first since being activated from the disabled list on Thursday before the series opener.

Cody Allen (3-1) ended the game with two perfect innings, striking out three.

Junichi Tazawa (1-1) took the loss one day after walking in the winning run in Cleveland’s 3-2 victory.

Rays 4, Astros 3

In Houston, David Price shook off a tough start to strike out 10, pinch-hitter Jerry Sands broke three bats while singling home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and Tampa Bay beat Houston.

For the second time in a week, Astros manager Bo Porter moved reliever Tony Sipp to left field, then brought him back to pitch.

Price (5-6) allowed homers to Dex-

ter Fowler and Matt Dominguez in the first inning. He went eight innings in his first win since May 13. It was the 20th career double-digit strikeout game for Price, setting a Tampa Bay record.

Jake McGee pitched a scoreless ninth for his first save.

Sands then broke two bats on foul balls before shredding a third one on his hit to left field off Jerome Williams (1-3).

Royals 6, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Salvador Perez hit a three-run homer as the Kansas City Royals swept a three-game series of the Chicago White Sox.

James Shields (8-3) won his fifth straight decision and the Royals extended their season-high win streak to seven. Greg Holland pitched the ninth for his 20th save in 21 chances.

Andre Rienzo (4-4) took the loss in Chicago’s fourth straight defeat.

Mets 3, Padres 1

In New York, Curtis Granderson hit his first leadoff homer in five years, Carlos Torres and two other relievers filled in admirably for an ailing Daisuke Matsuzaka as the New York Mets beat San Diego.

Bobby Abreu added an RBI double against Ian Kennedy (5-8), helping New York take the rubber game in a series between the two worst hitting teams in the majors.

Matsuzaka barely made it through an inning because of a severe upset stomach. Torres (3-4) went four innings, Vic Black pitched two scoreless innings and Jenrry Mejia made his first appearance since leaving Thursday night’s game with a stiff back, working two hitless innings for his seventh save.

Braves 7, Angels 3

In Atlanta, Tommy La Stella had three hits, including a two-run double in Atlanta’s four-run sixth, as the Braves beat Hector Santiago and the Los Angeles Angels.

La Stella, the rookie second baseman, is hitting .411 with at least two hits in nine of his 16 games.

Evan Gattis and Justin Upton also had run-scoring singles in the sixth as the Braves rallied against Santiago (0-7) after trailing 3-0. Jason Heyward hit a homer in the seventh and made two strong defensive plays in right field to take hits away from Mike Trout.

Trout had three hits, including a homer. Erick Aybar also homered for the Angels before leaving the game with a sore left hip.

Anthony Vavaro (2-1) had three strikeouts in two perfect innings.

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	41	30	.577	—
Baltimore	35	33	.515	4 1/2
New York	35	33	.515	4 1/2
Boston	31	38	.449	9
Tampa Bay	27	43	.386	13 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	36	29	.554	—
Kansas City	36	32	.529	1 1/2
Cleveland	35	35	.500	3 1/2
Minnesota	32	35	.478	5
Chicago	33	37	.471	5 1/2

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	42	27	.609	—
Los Angeles	37	31	.544	4 1/2
Seattle	35	34	.507	7
Texas	34	35	.493	8
Houston	32	39	.451	11

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	41	30	.577	—
Baltimore	35	33	.515	4 1/2
New York	35	33	.515	4 1/2
Boston	31	38	.449	9
Tampa Bay	27	43	.386	13 1/2

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	36	29	.554	—
Kansas City	36	32	.529	1 1/2
Cleveland	35	35	.500	3 1/2
Minnesota	32	35	.478	5
Chicago	33	37	.471	5 1/2

West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	42	27	.609	—
Los Angeles	37	31	.544	4 1/2
Seattle	35	34	.507	7
Texas	34	35	.493	8
Houston	32	39	.451	11

US OPEN SCORES

PINEHURST, North Carolina (AP)—Scores Sunday from the U.S. Open, played on the par-70 (35-35), 7,562-yard Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, No. 2 Course:

FINAL ROUND	
Martin Kaymer	65-65-72-69—271
Erik Compton	72-68-67-72—279
Rickie Fowler	70-70-67-72—279
Keegan Bradley	69-69-76-67—281
Jason Day	73-68-72-68—281
Brooks Koepka	70-68-72-71—281
Dustin Johnson	69-69-70-73—281
Henrik Stenson	69-69-70-73—281
Adam Scott	73-67-73-69—282
Jimmy Walker	70-72-71-69—282
Brandt Snedeker	69-68-72-73—282
Jim Furyk	73-70-73-67—283
Marcel Siem	70-71-72-72—283
Justin Rose	72-69-70-72—283
Kevin Na	68-69-73-73—283
Matt Kuchar	69-70-71-73—283
Brendon Todd	69-67-79-69—284
Ian Poulter	70-70-74-70—284
J.B. Holmes	70-71-72-71—284
Jordan Spieth	69-70-72-73—284
Cody Gribble	72-72-72-69—285
Steve Stricker	70-71-73-71—285
Billy Horschel	75-68-73-70—286
Aaron Baddeley	70-71-73-72—286
Shiv Kapur	73-70-71-72—286
Rory McIlroy	71-68-74-73—286
Francesco Molinari	69-71-74-72—286
Daniel Berger	72-71-78-66—287
Graeme McDowell	68-74-75-70—287
Kenny Perry	74-69-74-70—287
Phil Mickelson	70-73-72-72—287
Victor Dubuisson	70-72-70-75—287
Brendon De Jonge	68-70-73-76—287
Chris Kirk	71-68-72-76—287
Patrick Reed	71-72-73-72—288
Ernie Els	74-70-72-72—288
Sergio Garcia	73-71-72-72—288
Bill Haas	72-72-71-73—288
Hideki Matsuyama	69-71-74-74—288
Louis Oosthuizen	71-73-78-67—289
Zac Blair	71-74-73-71—289
Zach Johnson	71-74-72-72—289
Lucas Bjerregaard	70-72-72-75—289
Garth Mulroy	71-72-70-76—289
Danny Willett	70-71-78-71—290
Webb Simpson	71-72-73-74—290
Retief Goosen	73-71-71-75—290
a-Matthew Fitzpatrick	71-73-78-69—291
Billy Hurley III	71-74-75-71—291
Harris English	69-75-75-72—291
Ryan Moore	76-68-71-76—291
Seung-Yul Noh	70-72-76-74—292
Gary Woodland	72-71-75-74—292
Scott Langley	72-71-75-75—293
Stewart Cink	72-72-74-75—293
Fran Quinn	68-74-79-73—294
Paul Casey	70-75-74-75—294
Nicholas Lindheim	72-73-72-77—294
Justin Leonard	75-70-75-75—295
Russell Henley	70-74-82-71—297
Kevin Tway	72-72-81-72—297
Alex Cejka	73-71-77-76—297
Kevin Stadler	77-68-78-75—298
Clayton Rask	73-71-77-77—298
Bo Van Pelt	72-72-75-79—298
Boo Weekley	71-73-80-75—299
Toru Taniguchi	72-73-88-76—309

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Duncan's legacy isn't something he thinks about



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Annual traditions are everywhere in San Antonio.

There's the way the famed Riverwalk is transformed into a sea of lights at holiday time. Fiesta Noche del Rio, a summerlong outdoor performance of song and dance that dates back more than half a century. A huge rodeo, taking over the city for about three weeks every winter.

And of late, there's been the Tim Duncan Watch.

Unlike the others, this is one San Antonioian's dread. But if he goes out now, he'll be going out as a champion—for the fifth time.

San Antonio's 104-87 win over the Miami Heat in Game 5 of the NBA Finals on Sunday night gave Duncan his fifth title, all with the Spurs. And throughout this series, speculation has been rampant that if the Spurs ended Miami's reign Duncan might finally feel like the time is right to end what will surely be a Hall of Fame career.

"Amazing," Duncan said. "It makes last year OK."

He showed more emotion Sunday night.

"Just the close of a career. I know it's coming to an end," Duncan said. "Don't know if I'll ever have a chance to do this again. My kids and all we've been through, just a real emotional time."

His first title was in 1999. Only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar has a longer span between championships.

"Unbelievable feeling to be back here after that long and being with guys like this, a team like this," Duncan said. "Everything's changed. We've adapted. To come out here and be able to win another championship in front of this crowd, it's unbelievable."

When the 2011-12 season was threatened by a lockout, it was speculated that Duncan might have already played his last game. He's certainly doesn't play for money anymore - he's making about \$10 million this season, a giant sum in the real world but well below market value by NBA standards—and has always seemed to be a reluctant superstar.

And then, every fall, Duncan shows

up for training camp, the Spurs win a bunch of games, and the legacy just keeps growing.

"I know he's got one more year on his contract, and he loves being with us, loves playing basketball," Spurs guard Tony Parker said. "Either way, whatever he decides, I'll support him. But if I have to choose, obviously, I would love him to keep going. I love playing with him."

It's hard to find something in San Antonio more revered than the Spurs.

"Go Spurs Go" signage hangs from what seems like every other building in the sprawling city. If someone is on the streets of San Antonio on game day and not wearing Spurs gear, chances are they live somewhere else. During the NBA Finals, it's not uncommon for residents to strap Spurs flags onto their cars, drive through downtown and honk like crazy—even on off days in the series.

Duncan has never played for money anyplace else. Sunday was his 1,488th NBA game. Every one of them has been in a Spurs uniform. The only oth-

er players in NBA history to play that many games and never change teams: Utah's John Stockton and Indiana's Reggie Miller.

"He feels a responsibility to his teammates," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He enjoys them. He wants to hang around as long as he can while he's useful and while he's having an impact on the game. He takes care of his body. He works out all summer long with a variety of different things, boxing, swimming. He's very careful about what he puts in his body, so he does everything he can to maintain a level of play."

"At some point," Popovich added, "that will stop."

But when?

Duncan insists he doesn't know. It's something he, Parker and Manu Ginobili—the Spurs' Big 3—have been hearing for years, that their demise and breakup is imminent.

By now, they almost find it amusing. "We've been on our last run for the last five or six years from how everyone wants to put it," Duncan said. "We

show up every year, and we try to put together the best teams and the best runs possible because what people say doesn't matter to us. As I said, as long as we feel we're being effective, we're going to stay out here and we're going to play. We feel like we can be effective, and we have been."

Duncan is the 21st player in NBA history to win five rings with one team. Everyone else on that list played for the Lakers, Celtics or Bulls. That speaks to longevity and sustained greatness, which all factors in to the enormous legacy he'll leave behind at some point.

Again, though, that's not Duncan's thinking. Not now. Not yet.

First things first—there's another parade coming to San Antonio. When the Spurs won the Western Conference title and earned their rematch shot with Miami, which won last year's finals in a seven-game classic, Duncan vowed that San Antonio would win this time around.

He was right.

"This is the only one that counts right now," Duncan said.

SPURS

From Page 28

early 16-point deficit by outscoring the Heat 37-13 from the start of the second quarter to midway in the third, kicking off the celebration the Heat canceled last season.

"We remember what happened last year and how it felt in that locker room and we used it and built on it and got back here and it's amazing," Tim Duncan said. "It makes last year OK."

LeBron James had 17 first-quarter points to help the Heat get off to a fast start. He finished with 31 points and 10 rebounds for the Heat, who lost their spot atop the NBA to the team that had it so long.

"They played exquisite basketball this series and in particular these last three games and they are the better

team. There's no other way to say it," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

The Spurs won four titles in nine years, but hadn't been back on top since 2007, making Foreigner's "Feels Like the First Time" an appropriate song choice after the final buzzer.

Duncan and coach Gregg Popovich have been here for all of them, and it was the fourth for Tony Parker and Ginobili, who with Duncan are once again the reigning the Big Three in the NBA.

"Just a great team and we do it together," Parker said.

Chris Bosh finished with 13 points and Dwyane Wade just 11 on 4-of-12 shooting for the Heat, providing James nowhere near the help he needed.

The painful conclusion to last year served as the fuel for this one, powering the Spurs to a 62-win season that

topped the NBA and led to a rematch with Miami, the NBA's first in the finals since Chicago beat Utah in 1997-98.

Round 2 went to the Spurs, but both teams have challenges to navigate for a rubber match.

San Antonio will face questions—as it has for years—about the age of its core, and whether Duncan, Ginobili and Popovich want to stick around. The Heat will brace for the potential free agency of James, Wade and Bosh, and will need younger, fresher pieces around the three All-Stars if they all stay.

But this moment belongs to the Spurs. Playing a methodical style for many years that was predicated on throwing the ball into Duncan made San Antonio respected, but never beloved. The Spurs were TV ratings kill-

ers, casual viewers finding them not much fun to watch.

But Popovich opened up the offense a few years ago, making the Spurs an easy-to-like, tough-to-beat group that thrives on ball movement and 3-point shooting.

"You showed the world how beautiful this game is," Commissioner Adam Silver told the Spurs during the post-game award ceremony.

A decade and a half after winning their first title in 1999, when Duncan was in his second season, the Spurs remain the NBA's model organization, a small-market team that simply wins big and hardly ever does it with a high draft pick. Instead, they found players overseas or in other organizations who would fit the Spurs' way of doing things and mesh with the Duncan, Parker and Ginobili, the winningest trio

in postseason history.

That included Leonard, acquired in a draft-night trade with Indiana after playing at San Diego State, and Patty Mills, an Australian national who scored 17 points off the bench.

No team has overcome a 3-1 deficit in the finals, but the Heat were confident they could keep this season going, Bosh saying earlier Sunday that the Heat were going to win.

It appeared they would do it easily the way the game started, with James coming out with force on offense and shutting down Parker on defense as Miami went ahead 22-6.

But it didn't last.

The Spurs eventually made it look stunningly easy again—much to the delight of the home crowd, with fans standing, chanting and dancing much of the second half.

LEONARD

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Leonard had 22 points and 10 rebounds, his third straight big game in the series. He fouled out in the fourth quarter, which was barely noticed after the job he did helping keep LeBron James in some sort of check over the final three quarters.

When it was over—actually, a few

seconds before it was over—James led a group of Heat players down to the Spurs' bench for the first round of congratulatory hugs.

The first one he gave, and rightly so, was to Leonard. It was James taking the trophy from Russell in each of the last two seasons, after Miami's titles.

This time, the night belonged to Leonard, a 22-year-old who the Spurs

have long thought was the heir apparent to the Big 3 of Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker.

"The first two games, he didn't play so well," James said about Leonard. "I thought he attacked more in the last three games, shot the ball extremely well."

Added Heat guard Dwyane Wade: "It's like he just played free. ... He's the future of this team."

LEBRON'S

From Page 28

championships and this season, he didn't get a chance to grasp the Larry O'Brien Trophy. A 31-point, 10-rebound effort wasn't enough to get Miami past San Antonio, and the Heat fell to the Spurs 104-87 on Sunday night.

"It's a big disappointment," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "Feeling like this is an incredibly empty feeling."

So for the first time since June 21, 2012, the Heat are not NBA champions. This four-year run with James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh together has seen huge success—a league-best 283 wins, four straight trips to the NBA Finals to join only the Celtics and Lakers as franchises to pull off that feat, plus two NBA championships.

They've won 71 percent of their games in these four seasons.

Here's something that might sound

surprising: The Spurs have been better over that stretch, winning 73 percent of the time.

"Obviously, we ran up against a better team this year," James said.

And now, ready or not, here comes the summer of possible Miami discontent.

James, Wade and Bosh can all opt out of their contracts and become free agents. They'll likely all tell the Heat their plans by June 29, or two days before the free-agency window opens. Shane Battier is retiring, his career ending after 13 seasons on Sunday night. Nearly everyone else, including Mario Chalmers—who came off the bench for the first time in three years Sunday—is a free agent.

The summer, that's a topic James hasn't wanted to discuss all season and one he shrugged off again Sunday.

The end of this season still hurt way too much, and will for a while.

"We went to four straight finals in four years," James said. "You know, we're not discrediting what we were able to accomplish."

Just about every spot on the roster could be up for grabs. Backup point guard Norris Cole is under contract for next season and little-used center Justin Hamilton has a partially guaranteed deal, though he expects to be in Miami.

There are huge questions. Wade missed about one-third of the regular season for maintenance and injuries, and clearly labored as the NBA Finals wound down. James had a monster finals, and the Heat still lost in five games—so now the biggest issue facing Miami will be how to get him the help he needs to vie for more titles.

That is, if James even stays. He has given no indication he's leaving. He hasn't said he's staying, either.

"It's been a hell of a ride these four years," Wade said. "When we decided

to play together, we didn't say, 'OK, let's try for four years.' We said let's just play together and let's see what happens. ... We'd love to be 4 for 4. It just wasn't in the cards."

James announced before the game that he would change his typical approach, which was his way of saying that he was going to be more aggressive from the outset and not worry so much about getting teammates involved in the early minutes.

"Follow my lead," he told teammates before they took the floor.

It worked. For a while, anyway.

James had 17 points and six rebounds in the first quarter, plus a spectacular chase-down block on one end and a 30-footer to beat the shot clock at the other. Miami led 22-6 in the early going, holding the Spurs to their longest scoreless start of the season. Everything was looking like the Heat got to script the way the opening minutes would go.

And then, thud.

Like so many other times in these finals, the Spurs went on a run and just kept running. By midway through the second quarter, San Antonio had the lead. Early in the third, it reached double digits. Midway through the third, it was up to 21—which, at that point, marked a staggering 37-point turnaround from the opening moments.

In the end, the Heat became the 32nd team unable to overcome a 3-1 deficit in the finals, even though there was no storyline that James would have savored more than being the team to buck that trend.

"Why not us?" James asked Saturday.

The Spurs were that good. That's why not.

"At some point during the summer," Spoelstra said, "I'm sure we'll all be able to step back and realize it was a heck of a year."

CNMI bags three doubles titles

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



The CNMI Junior Tennis Team racked up three more championship medals in the 2014 North Pacific Regional Championships after prevailing in the boys and girls U12 and girls U14 doubles events.

The teams of Robbie Schorr and Ken Song and Conatsu Kaga and Malika Miyawaki triumphed in the U12 age group, while Tania Tan and Julia Ishikawa topped the U14 to bring the CNMI's gold medal haul in the tournament held in Guam last week to six. The Commonwealth bets earlier nailed title wins in the boys and girls U12 singles and girls U14 singles, making coach Jeff Race's team the most successful one in the six-day competition, dominating Guam, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Schorr and Song swept their way to the title victory in the boys U12 doubles, finishing the event with a 4-0 record and posting an unbeaten mark in eight sets. The duo had similar 6-0, 6-1 wins over Palau's Deavyn Etscheit and Moses Segal and Guam's Dakota Gibson and Justin Kim and labored a 6-2, 7-5 victory against Guam's Aaron Abrams and An-



Ken Song, seen here serving to Robbie Schorr during the 2014 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships at the PIC hard courts, teamed up with the latter in winning the boys U12 doubles crown in the 2014 North Pacific Regional Championships in Guam last week.

drew Leng before cruising past FSM's Freddy Jerson and Elijah Ziegler, 6-0, 6-2.

Kaga and Miyawaki were also flawless in the girls U12 doubles, starting their string

of wins with a 7-5, 6-4 victory over fellow CNMI players Jireh Warren and Asia Raulerson last Thursday morning. Then in the afternoon, Kaga and Miyawaki crushed FSM's

Isabel Garcia and Anne Skillington, 6-0, 6-0, before blanking another FSM pair in Chelsea Panuelo and Riddiane Wolphagen last Friday to complete the sweep.

In the girls U14, Tan and Ishikawa also earned shut-out wins, demolishing CNMI teammates Mimi Sakano and Ami Tsukagoshi in the first game. Ishikawa and Tan's two other wins came easy, too, as they pounded Guam's Anika Sachdev and Jocelyn Tenai, 6-1, 6-0, and Kanasta Abrams and Victoria Smith, 6-0, 6-2.

In the boys U14, the CNMI's Aditya Rai and Haruya Eda survived a three-set quarterfinal match versus Guam's Arya Rhamani and Marcus Schrader, 3-6, 6-2, 13-11, before bowing to the second-ranked Abraham Sterkis and Joab William in the semifinals, 0-6, 1-6.

In the boys U16 doubles, Ramsey and Lizama made it to the finals against top-ranked Chris Cajigan and Brian Tuncap Jr. and settled for runner-up honors after absorbing a 4-6, 3-6 defeat. Before their loss in the finals, Ramsey and Lizama eliminated two teams, downing FSM's Geryld Etscheit and Jake Panuelo first, 6-2, 6-0, before stunning the second-ranked Guam duo of Sydney Gadsden and Shane Schnabel, 6-1, 6-4.

Gwap Gang outclasses I Love Saipan

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Gwap Gang kept its unbeaten record in the 2014 DLX/IT&E Invitational Basketball League, following a 79-74 victory over I Love Saipan at the start of the round-robin semifinals last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Gwap Gang collected its seventh win this season, having swept all five games in the regular season and winning its first match in the playoffs against deposed champion San Roque, while I Love Saipan had its three-game streak snapped and must prevail in its last two games in the semis round to remain in contention for the two finals berth. The Top 2 teams after the round-robin semis will slug it out in the finals and Gwap Gang joined fellow undefeated squad Ali'i in the winners' column.

Kelvin Fitial top-scored for Gwap Gang with 19 points, but it was the successive baskets of Rodney Sacramento and Lester Vertudez in the homestretch that lifted the team to its first win in the semis. Sacramento scored 5 straight points off a layup and a triple, while Vertudez drilled the last two baskets of Gwap Gang to thwart the hard-fighting I Love Saipan.

Credit also John Darag for the close win, as he knocked in all his 9 points in the final canto to keep Gwap Gang's lead. Gwap Gang held a shaky 54-52 lead at the end of the third period when Darag started hitting his shots early in the fourth. He drained a triple to kick off the final frame and converted two more baskets to counter I Love Saipan's attack before getting his ninth point with a field goal midway in the fourth.

Darag's early shots and Sacramento and Vertudez's baskets in the closing minutes made up for the inside points Gwap Gang allowed to big men Larry Sharry and Gyles Ruloked, who combined for 14 in the final canto.

Sharry had a breakout game last weekend, beginning his hot-shooting night with an 8-point output in the first period, that ended with Gwap Gang clinging to a 2-point cushion, 17-15. Sacramento had 6 points for Gwap Gang and drew help from four other teammates to have the edge after 10 minutes of play.

Sharry continued to lead I Love Saipan in the second quarter, while Gwap Gang played a balanced offense to stretch the advantage to five after the first half, 36-31. Sharry was still at it in the third and this time got support from Mike Olaitiman, who tallied 10 points to move I Love Saipan within two, entering the fourth frame. The game remained close in the fourth canto and Gwap Gang came out on top, hitting clutch shots.

Gwap Gang 79 – Fitial 19, Sacramento 11, Darag 9, Yap 8, Vertudez 6, Kwon 6, Deleon Guerrero 5, Ito 2.

I Love Saipan 74 – Sharry 28, M. Olaitiman 22, Ruloked 8, Capalad 4, Ra. Olopai 3, J. Olaitiman 2, R. Olopai 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-15, 36-31, 54-52, 79-74.



Gwap Gang's Mike Ito drives against Digital Motion's Webb Guntar during a regular season game in the DLX caging last month at the Gualo Rai Court. Gwap Gang is still unbeaten this season, following a 79-74 win over I Love Saipan last Friday at the start of the semis round.

7 Tsunami Saipan records certified

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation official recognized the seven records Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center registered in the 2014 Guam Swimming Championships held late last month at the Hagatna Swimming Pool.

Four of the seven marks were courtesy of 8-year-old Nanaka Watanabe, who set new age group records in the girls U8 100m and 200m freestyle, and 50m and 100m breaststroke, and matched the best time in the 200m individual medley. In the 100m freestyle, Watanabe submitted 1:25.97, surpassing the 10-year-old record of Saipan Swim Club's Jellian Majors, who logged 1:27.18 on May 1, 2004. In the 200m freestyle, the 14-year mark of SSC's Amanda Johnson (3:21.81/March 31, 2000) fell after Watanabe timed in at 3:10.30.

For the 50m breaststroke, Watanabe cut the 50-second barrier with her 49.27 seconds. On top of this feat, she also eclipsed the oldest record in the age group—the 52.79 seconds Tamiko Winkfield tallied on May 8, 1994. In the 100m breaststroke, the Tsunami

Saipan swimmer clocked in at 1:46.56, shaving off about five seconds from her previous mark of 1:51.11 (March 21, 2014). In the 200m IM, Watanabe recorded 3:34.02, the same time Johnson earned during a race on March 30, 2000.

With her record swims, Watanabe clinched the high-point first place medal in the girls U8 division, defeating teammate

Ashley Dangol, who managed to reset an age group mark in last month's competition.

Dangol's 1:53.71 in the 100m butterfly was more than four seconds faster the previous age group record, which she incidentally held. Dangol timed in at 1:58.06 on March 21, 2014, during the 2014 SSC International Invitational Swim Meet.

Kensuke Kimura also reset an age group mark in butterfly—the 50m—as he finished the sprint race in 27.03, erasing the 27.70 seconds he registered on May 25, 2013.

"Congratulations to our new CNMI record holders. Job well done," NMISF said in a confirmation email sent to Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura last weekend.



Tsunami Saipan's Nanaka Watanabe races in the 50m breaststroke event in the 2014 Guam Swimming Championships held late last month at the Hagatna Swimming Pool.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Adams homers again as
Cardinals beat Nats, 5-2 PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune Sports



Kaymer closes
out wire-to-wire
US Open win
PAGE 24

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE



San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan (21) celebrates after Game 5 of the NBA basketball finals on Sunday, June 15, 2014, in San Antonio. The Spurs won the NBA championship 104-87.

Spurs beat Heat in Game 5 to win title

By BRIAN MAHONEY
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

From their low moment in the NBA Finals, back to the top of the league.

The San Antonio Spurs turned the rematch with the Miami Heat into no match at all.



The Spurs finished off a dominant run to their fifth NBA championship Sunday night, ending the Heat's two-year title reign with a 104-87 victory that wrapped up the series in five games.

A year after their heartbreaking seven-game defeat, their only loss in six finals appearances, the Spurs won four routs to deny Miami's quest for a third straight championship.

"Hard to believe, isn't it? Manu Ginobili said. "We played at a really high level."

Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs, who added this title to the ones they won in 1999, 2003, '05 and '07. They nearly had another last year, but couldn't hold off the Heat and lost the final two games.

San Antonio rebounded from an

See SPURS on Page 26

Spurs' Leonard wins NBA Finals MVP



Most Valuable Player San Antonio Spurs forward Kawhi Leonard celebrates with his mother, Kim Leonard, after Game 5 of the NBA basketball finals against the Miami Heat on Sunday, June 15, 2014, in San Antonio.

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Kawhi Leonard could have been devastated by losing last season's NBA Finals.

Instead, he vowed to get better.

Just think—the San Antonio Spurs' youngest star is only getting started. He's a champion now, with the Spurs beating the Miami Heat 104-87 on Sunday night in Game 5 of the NBA Finals, finishing off a 4-1 triumph. And after watching the Heat celebrate last season, Leonard was the pick as MVP of the series, accepting his award from 11-time champion Bill Russell.

"Everybody is just living in the moment right now," Leonard said. "Really don't know what's going on."

He'll figure it out quick. After all, the Spurs know titles—this one being their fifth since 1999.

When Commissioner Adam Silver announced Leonard as the MVP, he was mobbed by his teammates and Spurs coach Gregg Popovich roared with laughter, knowing Leonard would have to do what he hates most—talk about himself.

"Right now, it's just surreal to me," Leonard said. "I have a great group of guys behind me."

See LEONARD on Page 26



Miami Heat forward LeBron James watches the final moments of Game 5 of the NBA basketball finals on Sunday, June 15, 2014, in San Antonio.

LeBron's big start for naught, and Heat reign ends

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—LeBron James went to the bench midway through the fourth quarter, took a seat and covered his eyes with his left hand. His night was over.

His reign atop the NBA, also over.

The only thing James plays for is

See LEBRON'S on Page 26